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THE JERUSALEM POST

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Furor over a
pension**

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of Israelis at risk**

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the moshavniks go
it alone** Page 8

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Beduin**

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Beirut airport heavily shelled

BEIRUT (AP). — A sudden barrage of shellfire set an empty Boeing 737 jetliner ablaze at the city's airport yesterday, forcing a shutdown of operations and sparking an artillery duel between Moslem and Christian militias.

Although only one airport technician was hurt in the airport incidents, police said eight people were killed and 21 wounded in the four-hour duel with howitzers and mortars across the dividing green line, which followed the sudden shelling of the city's airport beginning at 9 a.m.

A salvo of mortar rounds rained a public transport bus in the Christian suburb of Hadath, and shrapnel killed five occupants and injured 13, police said. Three people were killed and eight wounded in the shelling of Moslem districts. Witnesses said a

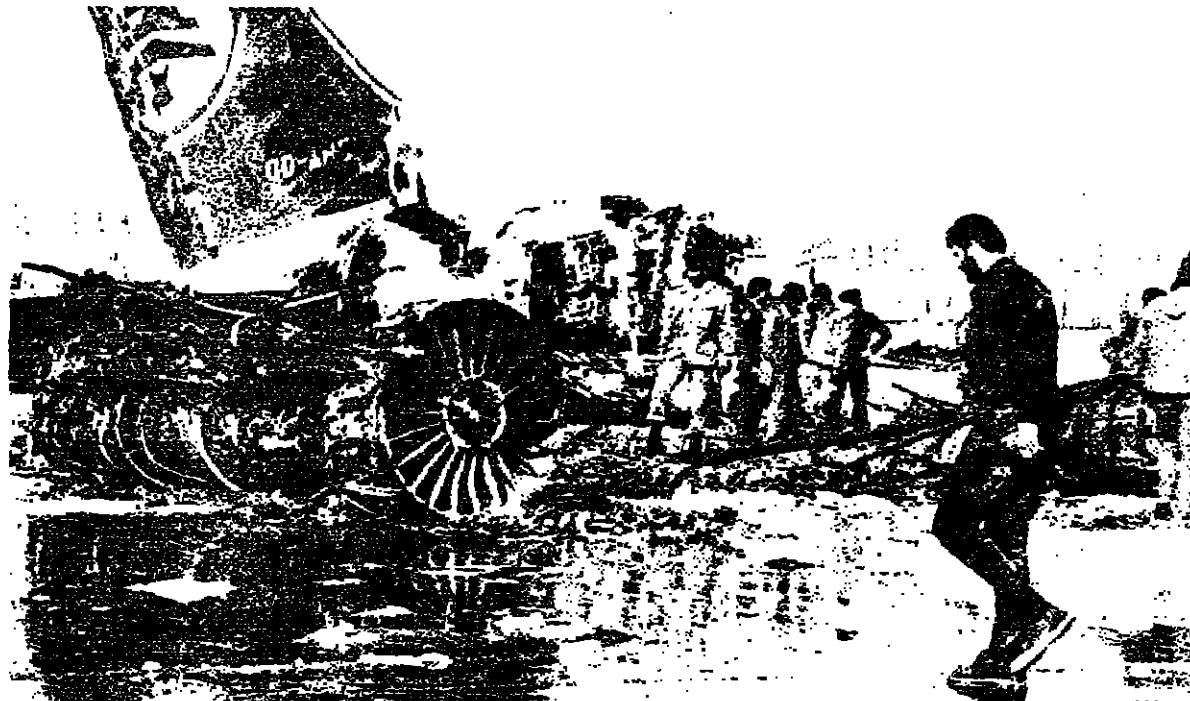
maintenance worker received severe burns in the airplane shelling.

In the airport bombardment, nine 120mm mortar rounds crashed within a 200-metre radius of the airport's tarmac, setting ablaze an empty Boeing 707 of Lebanon's flag carrier, Middle East Airlines.

The airport was closed for the time being and all incoming flights were diverted to Damascus and Larnaca airports in Syria and Cyprus, respectively.

"The attack came from a southeasterly direction. This makes the Palestinians the most likely source of fire," one observer said.

The airport is controlled by Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Shi'ite Amal militia, which has been fighting the Palestinians intermittently since Moslem districts. Witnesses said a



The burnt-out tail section of a Lebanese Middle East Airlines Boeing 737 set ablaze during yesterday's shelling of Beirut International Airport. (Reuters)

'A bad year, the worst since the force was founded,' says UN troubleshooter Unifil to get renewed mandate, despite difficulties

Unifil "has had a bad year, the worst since it was established," says Marrack Goulding, the UN Under-Secretary General for special political affairs, currently touring the Middle East to sound out the area's governments on the renewal of the mandate of the UN peace-keeping force in Southern Lebanon.

Goulding, who took over last year from Brian Urquhart as the UN's troubleshooter, noted that over 20 Unifil men had died in 1986 from attacks "by the various armed groups in the area."

He singled out the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army as a major offender which often "deliberately fires on UN positions" and "indiscriminately shells the Shi'ite villages."

Goulding said it was becoming "increasingly more difficult" to per-

suade the Security Council and contributing countries, in particular, to renew the force's mandate. "The fact that Unifil is taking heavy casualties (coupled with the fact) that it is unable to do what it was established to do (that is, bring peace to South Lebanon) makes it very difficult for the contributing countries," he said. He gave as an example Ireland, whose defence minister recently visited Israel and "spoke in strong terms" to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin following the killing by SLA troops of an Irish Unifil soldier. He noted also that the French had reduced their contingent in Unifil from 1,400 to 500 troops.

Moreover, said Goulding, who over the past three days met with Amal leader Nabih Berri and South Lebanon Amal leader Daoud



Marrack Goulding (Harari)

**IN PERSON
BENNY MORRIS**

Daoud, Unifil "is more and more seen (by Lebanese Shi'ites) as the security zone's outer belt, outer line of defence."

"But no country has said it will pull out (of Unifil). The Irish (too) have given no indication that they will leave (Unifil)," Goulding added.

Goulding said that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, despite Unifil's continuing difficulties, intends to recommend, in his report to the Security Council, that Unifil's mandate expires on January 19, be extended. "If Unifil goes, the situation in the south will only worsen," Goulding explains.

Goulding, who yesterday met Rabin, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, did not go into detail about

the talks. But he told Israel's leaders that the security zone "wasn't working" and again asked that Israel allow Unifil to deploy down to the international border, which would involve an eventual dismantling of the SLA. Such a deployment, coupled with the self-interest of the local population, which is largely Shi'ite, Goulding argued, would assure Israel's northern border against depredation by terrorists.

"I am confident that if the IDF withdrew completely from Southern Lebanon, there could be a return of peace and stability to the region," he said.

Israeli leaders assured Goulding — and this was a message that he conveyed to his Lebanese and Syrian interlocutors — that Israel has no

(Continued on Back Page)



Student demonstrators commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the founding of Fatah at Bir Zeit University yesterday. See story page 2. (Rahamim Israeli)

Rabin: 'U.S. asked us to lay off Hizbullah'

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last night that Israel has been restraining its attacks on the extremist Shi'ite Hizbullah organization because of an American request.

For over two years now there has been a standing American request not to hit Hizbullah centres in Lebanon because of the hostages there," he told a political meeting of the Ben-Gurion circle at the Hilton Hotel here.

"Some places actually have immunity because of the hostages," he noted.

Hizbullah has been stepping up its attacks on the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army, causing an increasing number of fatalities and reported demoralization in General Antoine Lahad's army.

Rabin prefaced his remarks by criticizing the American position that there should be no negotiations with terrorists. "In the matter of hostages I never believed in the U.S. administration's 'holy principles,' approach" he said.

Rabin said that the failure of the negotiations to secure release of hostages held by Hizbullah "limits our ability to strike at them. As strange as it sounds, a deal that leads to the freeing of hostages could provide more effective freedom of action against terrorists because there is no fear of what will happen to the hostages," he said.

Peres and Nissim seek 'mini' economic reform

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Finance Minister Yoram Nissim were busy late last night hammering out the last details of a "mini-economic reform" programme and a new package deal. The accord on the reforms and the package deal may be officially endorsed by the government, the Histadrut and the private sector employers early next week at a meeting of representatives of the three parties.

Nissim said last night on emerging from the meeting that the formulated economic plan would soon be presented to the government.

Sources told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that the possibility that the Histadrut will waive the cost-of-living allowance payment has renewed the likelihood that the Treasury will devalue the shekel to boost

export profits. So far both Nissim and Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno have opposed devaluation, arguing that it would only increase inflation because of the system of comprehensive indexation of wages and financial assets.

Now that the Histadrut has shown readiness to compromise on the C-o-L it is not clear whether the minister and governor will persist in their rejection of the devaluation proposal. According to the sources, in the talks between the government and the Histadrut the Labour federation is demanding a 1.5 per cent increase in the contributions to pension funds to help stabilize the funds.

The Histadrut is also demanding a tax on capital gains in the stock market or, alternatively, the imposition of a transactions tax. The possibility of a temporary surtax on very

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

The Lavi flies again

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. — As the Lavi took to the air on its second test flight yesterday, the director-general of Israel Aircraft Industries, Moshe Keren, said the government would continue with the programme and reject the alternatives the U.S. has proposed.

"We won't get far in talking about these alternatives," he said yesterday, while commenting on the proposals that the U.S. Assistant Under-Secretary of Defence Dov Zakheim presented here earlier this week.

Zakheim argued that the Lavi would be too expensive for Israel to produce. He said he doubted it would be better than existing American aircraft, and suggested Israel acquire — and possibly build here — other planes such as the Harrier and the F-16.

Keren said yesterday that his initial reaction to Zakheim's proposals had been that "the Lavi was and will be

the best alternative as long as we're talking about producing a plane locally. If you want to forgo domestic production, then you can talk about F-16s."

In a similar vein, the IAI's test pilot, Menahem Shmul, said "the plane will meet the operational requirements of our Air Force and not of the U.S. Air Force, and that is why it is the correct plane for our Air Force."

Shmul yesterday flew the Lavi for the second time, after several delays attributed to bad weather. During the 45-minute flight he climbed to 20,000 feet, picked up speed to 300 knots and retracted his landing gear.

Shmul said after the test flight: "I may not understand politics, but I'm convinced Zakheim doesn't understand much about airplanes. Maybe he knows about those that take him from point A to point B, but in developing fighter planes I assume his knowledge is extremely limited."

IDF gets its first Ethiopian officer

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

HAIFA. — Israel has got its first Ethiopian paratroop officer, 19-year-old Addis Akum, a graduate of Youth Aliya's Yemin Orde children's village.

Akum came to the country in 1981 and graduated from the officers' course last week, with the usual rank of *segen mishne*, (second lieutenant).

He matriculated in 1985, and when he was called up for his national service, he volunteered for the paratroops.

A Yemin Orde spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that they were very proud of Akum's achievement.

Shamir calls for 'informal agreements' with Jordan

By Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday called on Jordan to reach "informal agreements" with Israel — in tourism and economic development — as a means of moving towards a peace settlement.

Speaking at the Dead Sea to a meeting of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, Shamir suggested that the two countries reach agreements on joint exploitation of mineral deposits, development of the sister ports of Akaba and Eilat, solving ecological problems, sharing the Jordan waters and joint tourism projects.

(Continued on Page 15)

'Peres is remote, inaccessible and insulated by aides'

Despondency at the Foreign Ministry

By BENNY MORRIS

Post Diplomatic Correspondent
A feeling of alienation and professional ineffectiveness has taken hold of a large number of senior officials at the Foreign Ministry, and, unexpectedly, even among Labour Party supporters there is a spreading sense of nostalgia for the years of Yitzhak Shamir's incumbency as foreign minister.

Sources in the ministry attribute the widespread despondency largely to "the Olympian remoteness and inaccessibility of Foreign

Minister Peres, and to the clique of "lads" who surround and insulate him from the professional staff and who often treat the staff with condescension."

The sources said that Peres, often busy with other national affairs, very rarely, if ever, consults with the senior ministry professionals, the deputy directors-general and the department heads. He seems to have delegated the management and handling of the ministry and foreign policy to his coterie of assistants, principally director-general

for political affairs Yossi Beilin, political adviser Nimrod Novick and chief of bureau Uri Savir. These embark on and carry out policy initiatives often without proper consultation with or staff-work by the ministry's professionals.

The sources gave as examples Novick's recent meetings with Soviet officials — without proper advanced consultation with and preparation by the ministry's Eastern European experts — and recent

(Continued on Page 15)

Arts and letters

What's happening

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HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Mondale: Irangate won't hurt ties

By WOLF BLITZER

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
EIN BOKEK. — Former U.S. vice president Walter Mondale yesterday suggested that the Iran arms-contras funding affair was unlikely to do any long-term damage to American-Israeli relations.

"Barring any further disclosures, I don't think it will do much — if any damage," he told *The Jerusalem Post*. "I think that's pretty clear."

Mondale, who is chairing a conference on democracy in regions of crisis at the Moriah Dead Sea Hotel, said that it was "widely perceived in Washington" that Israel "did what the U.S. wanted it to do."

Republican Senator Arlen Specter (Pennsylvania) who is also attending the conference, concurred with Mondale's assessment. "I do not see any significant damage to U.S.-Israeli relations," he said. "I believe the relationship is strong enough to withstand this incident."

Specter, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, added, in a clear reference to allegations that Israel may have originated the arms sales, that "the U.S. makes its own judgment. Israel's stature continues to be high."

Specter also expressed confidence that any long-term damage to the relationship from the Jonathan Pollard spy scandal would be minimal. "These are blips," he told *The Post*. "The relationship remains excellent."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir,

speaking at the conference dinner last night, said U.S.-Israel relations now were as "excellent as they have been all the time these last four or five years."

Referring to the Iran arms affair and the Pollard spy scandal, Shamir said "all of these difficulties" would be resolved, and insisted that U.S.-Israeli cooperation remains "intimate."

Mondale and Specter are among a delegation of 15 prominent Americans who were invited to the conference by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, a Washington-based group that is loosely affiliated with the Democratic Party and is largely funded by the National Endowment for Democracy. The institute tries to promote democracy around the world, working with political parties and other institutions, including business and labor groups. Mondale serves as its chairman, and Brian Atwood, a former assistant secretary of state, is its president.

Among the other Americans here are Democrat Howard Berman (California) and Republican Bill Green (New York), former U.S. ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, New York University president John Brademas, and Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Joining the Americans at the three-day conference are over 30 Israeli politicians, academics, military officers, journalists and other specialists on Israeli society. Among



Former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale and Vice Premier Shimon Peres chat on a balcony overlooking the Dead Sea yesterday. (Vera Etzion)

them are MKs Abba Eban, Shulamit Aloni, Dan Meridor, Meir Shitrit, Simcha Dinitz, Zaidan Atsche, Abdel Wahab Darousha and Micha Harish. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, addressing the opening luncheon yesterday, acknowledged that the Israeli democratic system was "not perfect... We would have liked very much to change the system." Referring

to electoral reform, he noted that both Labour and the Likud are "married" to "satellite" parties which continue to oppose any restructuring of the system.

Peres, however, expressed the hope that the movement for electoral reform would "gather some more strength in the immediate period ahead."

Knesset panel summons Bank Leumi bosses

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday decided to summon to its meeting on Tuesday Bank Leumi board chairman Eli Hurvitz and the three former board members who fixed the severance pay and pension of former Bank Leumi chairman Ernest Japhet.

Jewish Agency Chairman Arye Dultzin, who will be abroad next week, was asked to report to the committee when he returns at the end of the month.

The three board members on the committee fixing Japhet's severance pay and pension are Yosef Pecker, who resigned earlier this week; Micha Efrati, who resigned yesterday; and Yisrael Sabarov, who resigned several months ago.

It was reported yesterday, however, that Hurvitz was the one primarily responsible for determining Japhet's pension and that the entire board knew of the sums involved.

The committee is expected to ask the managements of all banks once again to provide it with all the data

on wages and fringe benefits paid to senior officials. When the committee requested this the first time, the banks only informed the committee of the average salary of a group of senior officials, which turned out to be incomplete and inaccurate.

MK Yair Tzaban (Mapam), who proposed revising salary scales of senior bank officials, yesterday warned that if the committee again allowed the bank managements to get away with presenting incomplete data, the Finance Committee may be accused of helping to cover up the affair.

Committee chairman Avraham Shapira at first tried to avert having Hurvitz and the other former board members summoned to the committee meeting next week. He claimed that the bank had stopped paying Japhet and had appointed a committee to investigate what was happening.

Hurvitz, who returned to Israel on Wednesday to attend the bank's board meeting, left to rejoin his family on a short winter vacation in Europe yesterday.

Leumi, Union banks strike

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bank Leumi and the Union Bank branches will be closed today as their workers hold a one-day strike in protest against the pension paid former Bank Leumi chairman Ernest Japhet. The Union Bank is affiliated with Bank Leumi.

The workers decided to strike during a stormy meeting that started yesterday afternoon and lasted until late at night.

Calling on all the bank's board members responsible for what they called "the corruption in the bank" to resign immediately, the workers demanded the cancellation of all the

"excessive and secret" agreements signed with other senior bank officials. They demanded that payments to these officials be stopped immediately, and that the officials return what they had already received.

Bank Leumi works committee chairman Louis Roth said that the purpose of the strike was "to improve the bank's services and make them more reliable."

He asked the public to understand that the strike was meant to express the workers' anger, after feeling cheated for a long time.

The workers called on bank customers not to withdraw their accounts from the bank.

Fatah assassination threat reported in the areas

By YEHUDA LITANI
Post Middle East Affairs Editor

Fatah may try to assassinate Jordanian leaders in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to stop their activities, an "Israeli security source" was quoted as saying in the East Jerusalem Arabi daily *Al-Quds*.

According to the paper's Wednesday edition, the source said that the planned assassinations were intended to show the local populace that Fatah was still active and totally opposed to Jordan's activities in the

territories during the last year.

Palestinian sources in Jordan said, this week that there were indications that Fatah was planning the killings, but that they would not be carried out until after the Islamic Conference in Kuwait on January 26. PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and King Hussein of Jordan are expected to meet at the conference.

The sources added that the assassinations would be carried out only if the expected meeting was not held or if it did not produce a breakthrough.

Students mark Fatah anniversary

By JOEL GREENBERG

Hundreds of student demonstrators at Bir Zeit University yesterday marked this month's 22nd anniversary of the founding of Fatah with calls for armed struggle against Israel and denunciations of Zionism.

Torch-bearing students, led by university's new campus, carrying a large Palestinian flag and pictures of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

The march was followed by a rally in which student representatives spoke under pictures of Arafat and pro-Fatah slogans. Students of other West Bank universities attended.

IDF troops did not intervene in the three-hour march and rally, but maintained a lookout over the campus from a nearby hillside.

In East Jerusalem a quieter meeting with less nationalist overtones was held to mark the 40th day since the death — from natural causes — of Palestinian leader Anwar Nusseibeh. Speakers included the head of the Supreme Moslem Council, Sheikh Sa'd al-Din al-Alami, Gaza lawyer Faiz Abu Rahme, MK Mohammed Miar and Hanna Nassar, who replaced Nusseibeh as head of the Jerusalem District Electricity Company.

BEIRUT

(Continued from Page One)

May 1985.

"The airport was not shelled by mistake. Whoever shelled the MEA plane carried out an accurate job militarily and used a spotter who maintained visual contact with the target," said a military source.

The Christian Voice of Lebanon radio said a car bomb exploded shortly after dusk in Zahleh, a Christian town in the Syrian-occupied Bekaa valley, wounding 14 people.

Meanwhile, a previously unknown Christian faction said it was

behind an attempt to kill former Lebanese Christian President Camille Chamoun.

"Lebanese Forces-Free Bashir-Vengeance Forces" made the claim in a statement published by Beirut's *Al-Nahar* and *As-Safir* newspapers.

Three of Chamoun's bodyguards and four passers-by were killed and 40 people were wounded by a car bomb Wednesday that devastated the 86-year-old politician's motorcade as it drove through East Beirut. Chamoun escaped with a slight hand injury.

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing in Manchester of

RIVKA STERN

(née Hofstadter),
wife of the late Cantor Shlomo Zalman Stern.
Deeply mourned by her loving children, brother, sisters and family.

Shiva at Dviri, 58 Arlosoroff Street, Haifa.

On the first anniversary of the passing of
our son and brother

ELCHANAN KOMAR

a memorial service will be held on
13 Tevet 5747 — January 14, 1987 at 2:30 p.m.
at the Har Hazeitum cemetery.

We will meet near the gate at the Inter-Continental Hotel.

The Family

To Sonia Jackson and Family
Deepest sympathy on the passing of your husband

HAIM

Motti Nof
Mono Electronics Ltd.

Peres

(Continued from Page One)

high incomes is also being studied.

The breakthrough in the talks about the reforms was made possible by the Treasury's willingness to scrap its plans to abolish tax exemptions across the board, and by the Histadrut's readiness to forgo the coming cost-of-living allowance, which workers are to get in three or four months.

The compromise was discussed late Wednesday night, during a meeting at Peres's house with Nissim and Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar. Peres said after the meeting that "real" progress had been made and that he was confident an agreement would be reached in next week's trilateral summit.

Kessar also hinted yesterday at the coming agreement. In a radio interview he said the government had shown greater understanding of the Histadrut's opposition to the scrapping of tax exemptions. He also hinted that the mini-plan would include aid for the country's exporters.

Government officials said yesterday that Nissim had given up his projected tax reform in its original form. They said there would be a reduction in tax rates, but there would be no cancellation of tax exemptions.

The sources said that under the reforms, the marginal tax rate for the highest income bracket would drop to 50 per cent. They added that the compromise would drive up the cost of the reform package to about NIS 1 billion in lost income from personal and corporate taxes.

According to the sources the Treasury would not officially withdraw its plan to cancel exemptions, but would accept a decision on the matter being delayed until a "committee could study it." But they said once tax rates fall, the Treasury will have nothing left to offer in return for scrapping the exemptions. "The reform is dead for all practical purposes," they said.

Nissim and Peres also discussed a plan to grant export industries greater incentives, to boost their profits, following protests by the industrialists that such incentives were lacking in the government's original plan.

Homes sealed in Shuafat camp

Security forces yesterday sealed rooms in the homes of three suspected terrorists in the Shuafat refugee camp north of Jerusalem. The operation was carried out early in the morning. All possessions had previously been removed from the premises.

The suspects belonged to a terrorist cell that carried out a large number of attacks last March and April, throwing petrol bombs at vehicles on the Jerusalem-Neve Ya'acov road.

In April, a bomb hit a No. 25 bus, injuring 25 passengers. (Itim)

2 senior Solel Boneh men held for bribe-taking

RAMLE (Itim). — Two senior employees of Solel Boneh, as well as the head of a trucking company and a truck driver, were arrested yesterday in connection with the theft of building materials and diesel fuel from the Modi'in quarries. The four are to appear in court this morning for a remand hearing.

The Solel Boneh employees are suspected of taking bribes.

The arrests follow an investigation of two Solel Boneh subsidiaries, the Stone and Limestone Co., and the Asphalt Plant Co.

Hopes dim for Herut convention

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — Hope is fading for early agreement on an agenda that would make it possible to reconvene the Herut party convention. Herut insiders agreed yesterday.

However, the results of the latest attempt at party peacemaking will become known only after Prime Minister Shamir meets with Deputy Premier David Levy, who returned from America yesterday. The two might confer today.

In his absence, Levy's "lieutenants" discussed with Shamir a possible basic agenda for the convention, which has aroused the anger of Moshe Arens and Ariel Sharon. It is not yet clear that Levy himself would support the proposed agenda.

Levy has been seeking a convention decision to make him the party's number two man. Arens and Sharon, as potential contenders for the

party leadership in the post-Shamir era, oppose any arrangement that would give Levy an advantage over them.

Levy's supporters discussed with Shamir a formula that would have the convention delegates vote on the creation of the post of deputy party chairman, which Levy wants to fill. The assumption is that if the Levy camp can muster support for the new position, then it will also have enough clout to get its man elected to that position.

Sharon says he wouldn't "mind" the creation of a number-two post, provided the convention holds elections for all the top party positions. Since this is not part of the deal being discussed, he sees the evolving agenda as "part of a scheme to isolate [him] even further in the party and to sabotage a gathering of [his] supporters scheduled for Sunday." As Sharon has it, both Levy and Shamir are out to get him.

Shamir denied this yesterday, but sources close to him warned that "if Sharon continues to sound the same tune and refuse all ideas for a party peace accord, then such an agreement might be worked out without him and in spite of him."

But Sharon is not alone in his opposition. Arens, Levy's most serious potential rival, says there is no need to elect any party officials at the convention, apart from formally choosing Shamir as party chairman. To his mind an official number-two position would enable Levy, were he elected to the post, to claim that he is in line to succeed Shamir. All Shamir-camp assurances to the contrary will be of no avail when Levy stakes his claim.

The current discussions are aimed at reaching an accord to hold the party convention in March, a year after the last one broke up in disarray. Shamir has said he will not go to a new convention unless all Herut leaders agree on the agenda.

Arbeli urges politicians' pay freeze

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almoshino yesterday called for the freezing of the 40 per cent pay rise for cabinet and Knesset members which has been proposed by the Nebenzahl Commission.

"This is not the time for pay rises for us, when budget cuts and savings are in the air and employees are asked to forgo pay rises and their C.O.L. increase."

"We politicians should be setting an example," she told newsmen during a visit to the Rothschild Hospital here.

She said she was willing to forgo

her own increase, for the sake of the health services and to set an example. But feared she would only be laughed at and accused of seeking cheap publicity.

Asked whether the NIS 26 million emergency funds she had received could tide the health services over their present crisis, she said the Treasury had granted only NIS 8m. The balance came from the ministry's budget.

She hoped these funds would be sufficient for this fiscal year, but feared for the next, as there was talk of further cuts.

Shas seeks deal on comptroller

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — Shas officials have suggested that if Labour supports them on the issue of convert registration, Shas will back Labour's candidate for state comptroller, sources in both parties said last night. But Labour sources told *The Jerusalem Post* the idea was impractical.

Yitzhak Tulk completed his term as state comptroller on Wednesday night, and the Knesset has yet to appoint a replacement. The Likud's candidate is former Interior Ministry director-general Haim Kubersky. The Knesset has one month to choose a new comptroller.

The Shas figures reportedly approached high-ranking figures in Labour, though not party chief Shimon Peres. They proposed a reciprocal arrangement and were not immediately spurned.

But Labour sources discounted the possibility because the party is not yet united around a single candidate. Even if it were, they said, it was unlikely that party forums would approve such a deal.

The two candidates mentioned by Labour so far are Ya'acov Nitzan, a former civil service commissioner, and law professor Shimon Shetreet.

It's getting harder to become a lawyer

Law-school graduates who have to complete their articles will now have to pass a written test in addition to an oral exam to obtain a licence to practise. The central committee of the Israel Bar decided on the extra requirement, a multiple-choice examination, after checking practices abroad. (Itim).

Hechal Shlomo
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Ministry of Education and Culture

Jerusalem Great Synagogue
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for the six million
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perished in the Holocaust

which will take place on
Motzaei Shabbat, 10 Tevet, 5747, (10.1.87) at 8:00 p.m.

in the
JERUSALEM GREAT SYNAGOGUE

Opening Remarks: Rabbi Zalman Druke, District Rabbi

Guest Speakers: Mr. Zevelun Hammer,
H.E. The Minister of Religious Affairs,
Rabbi Yehuda Amital,
Rosh Yeshivat Har Etzion

* Cantor Naftali Hershtik, Chief Cantor of the Jerusalem Great Synagogue

* The Jerusalem Great Synagogue Choir under the direction of Eli Jaffe.

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Moderator: Dr. Meir Shaham.
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HONGKONG	18	25	Clear
JOHANNESBURG	12	27	Clear
LISBON	8	11	Cloudy
LONDON	6	10	Cloudy
MADRID	-1	10	Clear
MONTREAL	-1	10	Clear
NEW YORK	-1	10	Clear
OSLO	-17	-12	Clear
STOCKHOLM	-17	-12	Clear
SAO PAULO	28	32	Cloudy
SYDNEY	28	32	Cloudy
TOKYO	12	18	Clear
TORONTO	-1	10	Clear
VIENNA	5	10	Clear
ZURICH	5	10	Clear

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, growing cloudier tonight with rain in the northern and central regions.

	Yesterday's	Today's
Humidity	69	72
Jerusalem	69	72
Golan	69	72
Nahariya	59	72
Safed	70	72
Hula Port	80	72
Tiberias	67	72
Nazareth	—	72
Afula	58	72
Shomron	47	72
Tel Aviv	75	72
B-G Airport	30	72
Jericho	59	72
Gaza	40	72
Beer Sheva	41	72
Eilat	30	72

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny and his party yesterday visited the Weizmann Institute of Science as guests of its president, Prof. Aryeh Dvoretzky. Guests at the luncheon given by Prof. Dvoretzky in honour of the ambassador included Rehovot Mayor Yehzekel Har-Melech, officials of the Information Centre and the Histadrut, Institute Senior Vice-President Prof. Shmuel Shatili, Institute Vice-President for Academic Affairs Prof. Ze'ev Luz, Institute Vice President (Finance and Administration) Gideon Eloni, Professors Ruth Arnon, Elra Galun, Israel Pecht, Ze'ev Vager, and Dr. Ilana Gozes.

ARRIVALS

Cecily Peters, National President, and Lily Frank, National Executive Vice-President, Hadasah-Wizo Organization of Canada, to attend the World Wizo Plenary.

Wizo Venezuela president Clara Simlak, and Wizo Central American Department director Ena Kolkopf, for the plenary session of the World Wizo Executive.

Avner Less, Eichmann interrogator, dies

Avner Less, a member of the police team that prepared the file for Adolf Eichmann's prosecution, died Wednesday in Zurich after a long illness. He is survived by a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Less was born in Berlin in 1916 to a family that saw no contradiction between being good Jews and good Germans. After a spell of agricultural training in France, where he met and married his wife Vera, he moved to Palestine in 1938. Vera contracted poliomyelitis in her sixth month of pregnancy, but went on to have children. She died in 1980.

During the Mandate, Avner was an auxiliary policeman; after the creation of the state, he became an officer in the police's white collar crime section.

When Eichmann was captured in 1960, Less was appointed the official interrogator of the Bureau 06 team that prepared the prosecution brief. From May 29, 1960 to February, 1961 Less spent 275 hours taping Eichmann's reluctant confessions, which resulted in 3,564 pages of typescript. In condensed book form, it was published in many languages, except Hebrew, and is a classic of its kind: patient, thorough, fair, and at times crafty.

Avner Less was a born policeman and a servant of the state. Uncompromising and meticulous to the point of rigidity, he had a deep-rooted sense of justice. (Wim Van Leer)

Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
Orthodox Union/NCSS Israel Centre
Heartfelt congratulations to our dear friend
RABBI CHARLES WEINBERG
on his election to the Executive of the W.Z.O.
and the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency
representing the World Conference of Synagogues and Kehilot
May G-d grant him success in all his efforts
for Klal Yisrael

Julius L. Samson
Vice-President, Israel Federation

Shai Solomon
Director, Israel Centre



Tat-Aluf Dr. Yehuda Danon today becomes the IDF's chief medical officer. He succeeds Tat-Aluf Dr. Moshe Reva, who is completing his active service in the IDF.

Aharon Geva, at 64

Jerusalem Post Staff

Aharon Geva, a veteran *Davar* journalist, died yesterday of a heart attack at the age of 64.

Geva, born in Czechoslovakia, came to Israel in 1940 on the first illegal immigrant ship, which landed at Atlit. He served in the British army, and was a member of the Zionist Communist Party in the Yishuv.

He taught Hebrew to new immigrants from North Africa in the fifties and lectured to IDF forces on social, religious and political issues.

Geva first worked on the now-defunct *Lamerhav*, and served as minister Israel Galili's spokesman during the Six Day War. He joined *Davar* when the newspaper merged with *Lamerhav*, and wrote mainly on social affairs.

He is survived by his two sons, and three grandchildren. The funeral procession will leave the Sanhedria funeral parlour at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow for the Mount of Olives cemetery.

IDF holds test of call-up procedures

After Libyan bombing

France avoids escalation in Chad

PARIS (AP) — Defence Minister André Giraud confirmed yesterday that Libya had bombed southern Chad, but called the attack ineffectual and suggested it would not immediately lead to a French military response.

Giraud said that the Libyans had carried out the Wednesday attack on the village of Kouba, 65 kilometres south of the 16th parallel, the point below which the French have said they will not tolerate Libyan military activity.

The Libyan bombing came shortly after French jets had knocked out a Libyan radar system in Chad.

Giraud made a point of calling the Libyan attack insignificant. "It was a matter of a few bombs dropped from high altitude and which fell in the desert. It would be inappropriate to play a system that consisted of striking back with planes

each time a bomb falls in the sand," he said.

The Chadian government in the capital of N'djamena said meanwhile that the outpost of Zouar on the edge of the Tibesti mountains in the extreme northwest of the country, came under Libyan bombardment.

Giraud reiterated France's concern about "avoiding escalation" and an "internationalization of the conflict." He said it was natural that the Libyans would use air attacks after having suffered "a great defeat on the ground." On Wednesday Chadian Ambassador Ahmed Allam-Mi criticized the French attack on Ouadi Doum "too timid."

But Giraud responded: "The credibility of France was assured by this riposte which constituted a surgical strike, chosen for this effect and

aimed at the most difficult military objective north of the 16th parallel.

France, he said, could have carried out a larger action, but did not want to be "dragged into traps that risk transforming the nature of this national war."

Chad, a former French colony, has been in an almost continual state of civil war since gaining independence in 1960.

The French maintain a 1,400-man force in the country, mostly made up of personnel operating the Jaguar and Mirage aircraft based in N'djamena airport.

Demis Baudouin, spokesman for Premier Jacques Chirac, also tried to play down the importance of the exchange of air raids, saying the Libyan attack was "rather minimal."

SA papers mark ANC anniversary

JOHANNESBURG. — Several South African newspapers carried full page advertisements yesterday, that marked the 75th anniversary of the African National Congress and called for the legalization of the black guerrilla organization.

Police later announced they were investigating possible legal violations after receiving complaints from throughout the country about the ads.

The ANC was outlawed by the South African government in 1960.

Morning and afternoon newspapers in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and other cities carried the advertisement. The Star daily in Johannesburg said the advertisement cost about 120,000 rand (\$50,000) and appeared in 22 papers nationwide.

The ad accused the state-controlled South African Broadcasting Corp. and the government's Bureau for Information of bombarding the public with distortions and untruths about the ANC, and said, "let the ANC speak for itself."

The advertisement was placed by the United Democratic Front, a broad grouping of anti-apartheid organizations, the National Education Crisis Committee, and the South African Council of Churches. The names of 15 other anti-apartheid groups, including the 650,000-member Congress of South African Trade Unions, were listed on the advertisement as supporters.

The advertisement includes a silhouette of Nelson Mandela, imprisoned leader of the ANC, and a photograph of ANC president Oliver Tambo. It is illegal to publish a picture of Mandela, who is serving a life prison term.

Tambo marked the anniversary with a new vow to step up the armed struggle, and a reaffirmation of the ANC's non-racial stance.

He said the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe ("spear of the nation" in the Zulu language) was working inside South Africa to incite the revolt.

"We are in a position to multiply Umkhonto We Sizwe's presence among the masses, to spread its ranks from among the people," he said. "The South African government knows that, and that is why it is desperate today."

Meanwhile, foreign shareholders have joined the business exodus from sanctions-hit South Africa by selling shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in record amounts, officials disclosed yesterday.

Exchange chairman Alastair Martin said the net selling of South African shares by foreigners rocketed to 850 million rand (\$334 million) in 1986.

This was more than double the 1985 figure of 300 million rand (\$138 million).

Dealers said the steady, unpublicized selling, mostly by American institutional and private investors, was a clear vote of no confidence in the country and a protest against its apartheid racial segregation.

In southern Angola, South African troops twice attacked Angolan government forces and kidnapped three soldiers after crossing into southern Angola during the last three weeks, the official Angolan News Agency, Angop said yesterday. (AP, AFP, Reuters)



A lone would-be commuter waits on the platform of a deserted Metro station in Paris yesterday. (Reuters)

Chirac cancels trip because of strikes

PARIS (Reuters). — Prime Minister Jacques Chirac called off a visit to Canada yesterday as strikes by communist-led unions left large areas of France without power and piled fresh pressure on the right-wing government.

French government officials yesterday charged that the public sector strikes have taken on a "revolutionary and insurrectional" aspect.

There had been a marked increase since Wednesday in "vandalism, looting and damage to equipment," prime minister Jacques Chirac's spokesman told a press conference.

It was the "first time in France" that such "acts of sabotage" had occurred, he said.

Gas and electricity workers extended their strike, commuters quipped bumper-to-bumper to reach Paris, and the French franc took another hammering on foreign exchanges.

The state-owned railway SNCF and unions began a new round of talks, but there was no sign of a settlement in the train drivers' walkout which entered its fourth week.

As firemen answered repeated calls to rescue people trapped in lifts brought to a halt by power cuts, Chirac's

spokesman said he was postponing a three-day Canada trip planned for next week because of the strike crisis.

Power cuts hit many parts of the country for the third day running. Electricity output dropped by 20 per cent as two more unions joined the communist-led CGT in a further 24-hour strike by state gas and electricity workers.

The electricity utility EDF said it was taking measures to avoid the blackouts which have disrupted industry. But as the lights went out, shops and restaurants resorted to candles and battery torches to keep going.

The French franc took a battering and stayed pinned to its 3.3303 floor against West German mark in the European monetary system.

Paris commuters faced another day of misery. Public transport in the city and suburbs remained badly disrupted and traffic jams approaching the capital stretched back almost 30 km.

There was no hint of movement on either side towards a settlement of the 22-day-old strike, the longest in the SNCF's 40-year history.

Chirac's spokesman said the government wants to limit public sector wage increases to 3 per cent this year.

African students protest Chinese racism

PEKING (AP). — More than 200 African and other students marched 20 kilometres to the Moroccan embassy yesterday to protest a letter containing racial slurs and demand that their safety be guaranteed by Chinese officials.

Moroccan ambassador Abderrahim Harkett, the dean of the African diplomatic corps in Peking, met the students on the embassy steps and told them he would take immediate action to assure that their safety and dignity were safeguarded.

Students said they saw copies of the letter, which was signed "Students Association," two days ago, the day a Sudanese student was beaten by a Chinese student at the

Peking Hotel. The one-page letter complained about black students' manners and behaviour, and said that if they did not improve, the students would be dealt with as Americans have dealt with blacks in the United States.

The All-China Students Federation denounced the letter, saying it was written by troublemakers trying to cause friction between Chinese and African students.

"Now we are asking ourselves, why should we stay here and study in China? Why should we stay here in this university that doesn't want us?" the student spokesman told Harkett. "We ask the dean of the African diplomatic corps to take immediate

action because we are the most exposed to the dangers here."

He said that if no solution is found to secure the students' safety, "we wish for our tickets to go back home."

The students marched over icy streets from the foreign languages institute first to the Sudanese and then the Moroccan embassy. They shouted "Africa" and raised their fists as they marched on main roads, causing a traffic jam behind them.

Hundreds of policemen on motorcycles in vans and on foot followed the marchers, shouting over loudspeakers that students should understand the consequences of breaking China's laws on unauthorized demonstrations.

IN BRIEF

China has satellite pact with U.S., Swedish firms

PEKING (Reuters). — China has signed four agreements so far to reserve satellite launches for U.S. and Swedish companies, the official New China News Agency said yesterday.

It quoted Wu Keli, a senior official of the Astronautics Ministry, as saying the satellites would be sent into orbit over the next two years.

Letters of intent have also been signed with Iran and other countries, he said.

Berkeley to shut down nuclear reactor

BERKELEY (AP). — The University of California plans to shut down its 20-year-old nuclear reactor at Berkeley, where voters declared the community a nuclear-free zone.

Vice Chancellor Roderick Park said the Berkeley reactor had outlived its usefulness and would be replaced with a new computer science building, but conceded that the shutdown came at a politically opportune time.

Bomb damages French auto dealership in Spain

BILBAO, Spain (AP). — A small bomb exploded outside a French car dealership in a suburb of the northern Basque city of Bilbao, shattering windows but causing no injuries, police said yesterday.

Police said they believe the Basque separatist group ETA (an acronym for Basque Homeland and Liberty) carried out the bombing late Wednesday against the Peugeot-Talbot dealership in Galdacano to retaliate for French expulsions of alleged ETA member.

53 children die in India in deference to Hindu god

NEW DELHI (AP). — Dozens of children suffering from measles were left to die at the altar of a Hindu God because their parents feared that seeking medical help would offend the deity, *The Times of India* reported yesterday.

Fifty-three children have died in the village of Khodi Yamarg near the industrial city of Ahmedabad in western India since December 12, the English-language daily said.

'China jails seven men for spying for Taiwan'

HONGKONG (AP). — Seven people have been jailed in southern China for terms of one to 15 years for spying for Taiwan, a newspaper reported here yesterday.

The head of the spy ring was identified as Chen Luan who was arrested in southern Guangdong province along with six other accomplices in February 1986, the left-wing *Wen Wei Po* reported.

Aids-free certificate forgery ring uncovered

JAKARTA (AFP). — Jakarta police have arrested five persons for allegedly forging Aids-free certificates required by Indonesians wanting to work in Saudi Arabia, the Antara news agency reported yesterday.

Antara said the faked papers were sold at 10 U.S. dollars each, three dollars cheaper than the legitimate ones issued by government-run hospitals.

Pan American to resume flights to Karachi

KARACHI (AP). — Pan American World Airways plans to resume flights to Pakistan later this month after suspending its flights following the hijacking of an airliner in Karachi last year.

Israeli officials may testify before Senate

WASHINGTON. — U.S. Senate investigators may be sent to Israel, Switzerland, Brunei and possibly Iran to interview foreign officials in a bid to get to the bottom of the Reagan Administration's Iranian arms scandal.

This was stated here yesterday by Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, who heads the 11 member select committee set up to probe the arms sales and diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

At the same time, independent counsel into the affair Lawrence Walsh was reported to be moving quickly to get grand jury investigations under way by February 1.

Meanwhile, President Reagan yesterday returned to the White House with a clean bill of health, following successful prostate surgery early this week.

He is expected to resume a limited official schedule next week. Next year's budget and the congressional inquiries into the Iran arms scandal will be on his agenda.

Administration sources said yesterday that Lt.-Col Oliver North used his National Security Council office to manage funds for the Contra rebels during a time when Congress prohibited direct aid to the rebels.

Speaking on condition that they would not be identified, the sources said North started collecting money from private donors for the rebel cause as early as the fall of 1984.

One well-placed source said that around Christmas-time 1984, North even used his office safe to store cash which North said was "for the Contras."

The official said "money was passing through North's office to pay for Contra expenses, but did not know how much or precisely what it was spent on."

In a related development, the independent counsel investigating the Iran-Contra affair is appointing half-a-dozen current or former prosecutors as top-level assistants, including federal attorneys.

Lawrence Walsh also announced on Wednesday that he is opening a New York office to help conduct his criminal investigation.

One of the matters the independent counsel is expected to review is a New York case in which 13



Reagan returns to the White House yesterday. (Reuters)

businessmen including Israelis, are accused by the Justice Department of illegally trying to smuggle arms to Iran.

The defendants say they thought the shipments had the approval of the U.S. government.

Secretary of State George Shultz confirmed yesterday that a third-country contribution to the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan Contra rebels has disappeared.

"It is a mystery just what happened to the money," Shultz told reporters on Wednesday night while en route to Senegal, his first stop on a six-nation tour of sub-Saharan Africa.

Shultz declined to identify the donor country. It has been widely reported to be Brunei, a small oil-producing country in Southeast Asia which Shultz visited last year. The contribution was reported to be \$10 million.

Shultz said the U.S. wanted to track the money to ensure that it was used for its intended purpose, humanitarian aid. (AP, AFP)

Senior KGB man fired

MOSCOW (Reuters). — The chief of the KGB state security police, Viktor Chebrikov, announced yesterday that a senior KGB official in the Ukraine had been sacked for his role in the arrest of a reporter who exposed abuses of local power.

In a front-page statement in the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda*, Chebrikov said KGB officer A. Dichenko had violated the law by initiating criminal proceedings against V. Berkhin, a reporter in the Ukrainian city of Voroshilovgrad.

He said Dichenko, the head of a KGB department in the Ukraine, had involved several subordinates in illegal activities concerning Berkhin and other people, and had been dismissed for "discrediting the high calling of a Soviet officer."

He said the KGB was taking addi-

tional measures to guarantee stricter observance of the law by the entire Soviet security apparatus.

Western analysts said the *Pravda* report on the dismissal of a KGB officer was unprecedented since the execution of Lavrenty Beria, state security chief under Josef Stalin, who was shot in 1953 after the death of the Kremlin dictator.

They said it was also highly unusual for a KGB chief to publicly announce that an officer under his command had been sacked for what amounted to human rights abuses.

The Berkhin affair came to light in November, when *Pravda* reported the dismissal of two top justice officials in the Voroshilovgrad region, saying state investigators found they arrested the journalist because of his reports on power abuses.

Astronomers find giant stars

PASADENA (AFP). — Two U.S. astronomers have reported finding the largest optically visible structures yet observed in the universe, and believe they are curving lines of newly formed stars.

The report was given at the American Astronomy Society annual congress here by Vahe Petrosian of Stanford University and Roger Lynds of Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona.

The glowing blue arcs are three billion billion km. long, or more than three times the diameter of the Milky Way, the astronomers reported, making them the largest structures yet glimpsed. They are some 3,000 billion km. from earth.

"The best guess is that they are curving lines of stars formed by a new mechanism we don't understand yet," they said.

BEIT MIDRASH LESHALOM

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An examination of Talmudic, midrashic and medieval sources on the Israelite "borrowing" of Egyptian property. How does this tradition help us grapple with issues facing the State of Israel today?
4 sessions in English, Tuesdays, 8:45-10 p.m.

Courses begin January 20, 1987 at Machon Eitz Yahu, 15 Eitz Yahu Bamelech St., Old Katanah, Jerusalem.
Participation fee: NIS 10 per course. For further information, write: Oz Veshalom/Netivot Shalom, P.O.B. 4433, Jerusalem 91043, or phone 02-680712.

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INVESTIGATION

High-rise fire

Last Saturday's tragic fire in Givatayim which killed a father and his three children did not surprise the experts. Bernard Josephs discovers that thousands of people are at risk in their apartment blocks.

THE Givatayim apartment block blaze, which killed a father and his three children and left their mother severely injured has rung alarm bells in more than the local fire station.

All over the country, safety experts, fire-fighters and people living in similar high-rise buildings are considering the implications of Saturday's tragedy. And their conclusion seems to be that thousands of Israelis are living just a spark away from disaster.

Investigators picking their way through the charred ruins in which Yitzhak Aroesti and his children Itai, 8, Idit, 6, and Yair, 4, were suffocated by smoke and superheated air, found that the building was lacking in basic safety facilities.

There were no smoke or air vents, no emergency lighting and no fire escape. The blaze was started by rain trickling into an open fuse box.

None of this was surprising. The 11-storey building in Rehov Herzog was built in 1972 and such life-saving precautions as emergency stair cases did not become compulsory until 1980. Contractors are not required to update their buildings, said the experts. This was up to the residents to do.

"There are many, many people living in blocks like the one at Givatayim," said a senior fire brigade officer. "They should all consider themselves at risk."

Another fire safety expert saw the disaster as the inevitable outcome of a national lack of awareness about the risk of fire.

"You see all over this country high-rise blocks with no means of escape other than the main staircase. You rarely see such things in other western societies," he said.

Ran Kachlon, chief inspector of the nation's fire service, was at the scene of the blaze as firemen from three different stations fought to rescue residents screaming for help from their windows.

"The fire itself was not so big," he said, "but the heat and smoke spread quickly from the third floor where it started. Without vents there was nowhere for the smoke to escape and so the pressure grew."

"By the time it reached the 8th floor it was so intense that no one outside their flat could have survived more than two minutes."

In such conditions, said Kachlon, the only hope is to keep the front door closed and douse it with water. To go outside is to risk almost certain death. This it seems was the Aroestis' fatal mistake. They were apparently trying to escape their flat when they died.

Kachlon continued: "The door to their apartment was found open. It was made of wood, which means it would not have held out against the heat for very long. Those residents with metal security doors were much better protected. But if the family had kept inside and thrown water on the door maybe they would have had a chance."

The lack of emergency lighting was a major factor in causing panic among the residents, said Kachlon. "It is enough to imagine the scene. You get up in the middle of the night because you smell smoke. You hear people screaming but it is pitch dark and you don't know where the fire is."

The first instinct is to get out, to leave your flat and head for the stairs. People were confused and frightened. What they should have done was to stay indoors and open the windows so the firemen could rescue them. But they didn't know that."

Anyone moving into a building should examine it for fire safety facilities, urged the fire chief. But, he added, few people bother. Buildings over 12 storeys tall put up from 1980 onwards must have certain safety factors built in, he continued.

These include two separate staircases, air vents, and emergency

lights. There should also be fire doors that can withstand the fiercest blaze for at least half an hour and fuse boxes should be sealed so that water cannot enter.

Buildings fewer than 12 storeys high, and those built before the regulations came into force, rarely have such conditions and the fire brigade does not have the manpower or the authority to inspect them, Kachlon admitted.

"We sometimes examine buildings before people move in and we see all the plans for new blocks, but after that there is nothing we can do. We believe, especially in view of this latest tragedy, that local authority experts should carry out regular inspections of residential buildings."

"We also believe that a big educational effort should be made to tell people what kind of precautions they are entitled to in their homes."

"We are certainly ready to give guidance and visit people in their homes if they want us to. We have had many people calling us in recent days and asking for advice."

Kachlon said he was very pleased with the performance of his men at Givatayim. They had arrived quickly at the scene and had been able to rescue dozens of people with the aid of highly sophisticated equipment, including giant hydraulic rescue cranes.

But he went on: "The fire service has its share of problems. At Givatayim we performed well but we are often very short of men, and especially of volunteers to help man fire stations at night."

"We have some very good equipment, but some of our fire engines need replacing and I shall be asking for money for this. We work within a tight budget but what has happened this week makes it clear to everyone how vital the fire service is."

Tel Aviv's former fire chief Ya'acov Ritov, who is now a private

"It may seem cynical, but it will take a fire that kills at least seven people before the powers that be sit up and take notice."



fire safety consultant, echoed Kachlon's views.

"The situation of the fire service is very serious. In most countries there is a standard of one fireman per 1,000 people. Here it is one for every 4,000 people," he said.

Ritov, who ran the Tel Aviv fire brigade until 1980, said the service was far too low on the government's scale of priorities. "Fires are always going to occur however many firemen we have. But the number can be reduced and the casualties can be kept to a minimum if there is the will to do it."

"It is accepted that to send out a fire crew with fewer than four men it is pointless. Such a small team cannot cope. Yet we have areas - including one city - that have a fire service consisting of a single fire fighter. How can we expect him to cope with even the smallest emergency?"

Of course, said Ritov, reinforcements can be called in. But this takes time, and the most important moments in controlling a blaze are the first few minutes.

He continued: "We must have more firemen - at least four times as many as now - and we must have more fire stations so that in a city no fire is more than three minutes away from the nearest fire brigade unit."

He recalled that as fire chief he had made representations to the interior minister and to other government figures about the parlous state of the force.

"I told them it was impossible to carry on like this," he said. "I told them that even with an adequate force we could not always be 100 per cent successful but that in our present state we didn't stand a chance. Their answer was to set up a committee to consider the situation. Meanwhile we had to carry on as best we could."

Ritov said he doubted that the Givatayim blaze would cause a ma-

nor change in the fire service's fortunes. Nor did he believe it would jog public attitudes.

"It may seem cynical, but I believe it will take a fire that kills at least seven people before the powers that be sit up and take notice."

WHEN TECHNION building expert Dr. Rachel Becker looks at some of the high-rise apartment blocks that line Haifa's horizon she becomes decidedly nervous.

"I know that many of them have just one single staircase that can be used as an exit and if that is blocked in the event of a fire there is no other way out," she said.

Her "blazing inferno" scenario was translated into horrifying reality in Givatayim last week and Becker fears that more people may die before local safety regulations are brought up to world standards.

There are few places in the world where apartment blocks can be found without at least an emergency staircase, she said. But in Israel such things are commonplace.

Safety codes for architects and builders are complicated, incomplete and sometimes simply ignored, she went on. Only now is the Technion considering making fire-safety part of its architects' course.

Becker, a senior lecturer and member of the institution's building research centre, complained: "Architects don't have a fire-safety code and they don't learn it in their studies. So when they sit in front of the drawing board it does not figure in the designs they produce."

"We are simply not as aware of the problem of fire as they are in other countries."

New high-rise buildings have to have a fire escape but our regulations in other matters, such as barriers between floors to prevent fire spreading from one level to another, are inadequate. And when a builder

builds he usually does just what the law says and no more.

The technician, said Becker, awards safety certificates on behalf of the Housing Ministry for buildings that have adequate fire prevention facilities, but the strict standards required in order to receive one are not compulsory.

The building research centre, she went on, has also launched a campaign to encourage architects and builders to submit new building systems and materials for analysis before they are used.

"At the moment there is no requirement to check anything before a building is put up, so the quality of many blocks is very low. But if we can check the general safety characteristics of plans and materials at an early stage we may be able to avoid many fatalities."

"Of course this too is not compulsory. But it is an effort to introduce more discipline into the market - even if it means costs will rise a little."

Becker said that a major problem was the low standards of fire safety set for building materials. Even the non-compulsory levels set by the Standards Institute were woefully inadequate.

She explained: "Take for instance wall coverings in stair wells - the most common scene for a fire. The institute grades materials from one to six. One means that if you look at it, it bursts into flames. Six means it is fire proof."

"Yet the standard for wall coverings is set at three, which means it catches fire easily. The same standard is set for ceiling coverings and for bannisters."

However, Becker stressed, most modern buildings actually have higher standards than those set by the institute. "There is no question that the major problem is not materials but the overall design of buildings," she said.

How much do Knesset members earn?

David Krivine

BEING A KNESSET member brings a lot of fame, but not much in the way of earnings. Within the delegate's income, however, there is a disparity. The salary is modest; the side-benefits, on the other hand, are, let us say, exaggerated. All this we learn from the report recently released by a public committee on the subject, headed by a former state comptroller, Yitzhak Nebenzahl.

Exactly how much do our legislators get? Let us go back to April 1985, three months before the big wage freeze was launched by the national unity government. At that time, the highest-ranking civil servants with maximum seniority were getting the equivalent of NIS 1,400 a month. Knesset members got NIS 1,560. These sums gross, before tax.

In other words, Knesset members were earning 11 per cent more than top civil servants. That was no longer the case when the report came to be written. Knesset salaries are linked to rises in the average wage every three months. Unfortunately, three months after April came July, when the wage freeze was instituted; so Knesset members waived the increase they should have been entitled to.

Despite the freeze, civil service salaries went up, from 100 in April 1985 to 215 in July 1986, owing to the cost-of-living allowance. Knesset members' wages rose in the same period to only 165. In October 1986 (three months ago), top-grade civil servants were getting NIS 3,200 (\$2,135). Our parliamentarians had to content themselves with NIS 2,550 gross (\$1,700) or 20 per cent less.

How much should the 120 members of Israel's supreme law-making institution be earning by rights? The Nebenzahl committee decided: 5 per cent more than the top civil servants, or NIS 3,375. The committee's recommendations have been accepted en bloc, so our parliamentarians are now getting that, plus the cost-of-living allowance accruing since then, or a total at this moment of NIS 3,700 gross (close to \$2,500).

NET OF TAX (if the MK's wife does not work) that comes to NIS 2,340 (or \$1,500), which does not exactly put the recipient among the moneyed classes. Every member

gets the wage, whether he has an outside income or not. And this raises a question: is the work in the Knesset a full-time job? Should members be allowed to earn extra on the side?

In the Swiss federal legislature delegates receive nothing but expenses. They must work for a living; they have no choice. That situation reflects an old tradition, when representatives were well-heeled landowners and businessmen who met together at intervals to keep an eye on things.

Israel's parliament is a busier place than that. Being the most powerful decision-making body in the land, its members ought, in all conscience, to know what they are talking about. Tax reform, the fate of the Lavi, public controversies over religious conformity, the security services, the sale of arms to Iran, budget cuts for health and education - these are all subjects which require profound study. Sensibly, Knesset rules do not allow a member to hold an outside salaried post.

But they do allow him to work for money independently as a self-employed person. I asked Natanel Lorch, former clerk (chief administrator) of the Knesset, why this loophole is permitted.

"I think it was an error," he admitted. "At the time, over 30 years ago, the Knesset's Parliamentary Committee overlooked the distinction between *maskoret* (wage) and *s'char* (earning). They banned the one and not the other. As a result, delegates may earn money as lawyers, economic consultants, industrialists - but not as university professors, because those are salaried posts."

Are they required to declare their earnings?

"No, they must report only what property or capital they own. The information is then locked up in the Speaker's safe. Under the British system, members have to declare their occupations (though not their earnings) and that information is public knowledge."

Incidentally, I learn from Lorch, British MPs do not have much time

for outside jobs, for two reasons. One is that the House of Commons involves a heavy work load. The chamber sits for 1,600 hours a year, four times the Knesset's total (not counting time spent in committees).

"Secondly," he says meaningfully, "each individual in the House of Commons has a constituency to nurse, which the Israeli MKs do not."

"In the U.S.," adds Lorch, "congressmen may enjoy income from capital but not from work; that is, they are allowed income from outside work (of any kind) but only up to a certain proportion - I think 15 or 20 per cent - of their official salaries."

THE NEBENZAHL committee does not address itself to the problem of outside work, because it was not commissioned to do so. But there is something invidious about the present situation. It is no secret that some Knesset members who are lawyers have made a fortune out of their legal work since belonging to this august assembly.

One change at least might well be considered: giving an extra salary increment of 10 or 20 per cent to all members who have no outside income.

It is absurd that Yossi Sarid should depend for his livelihood on a cheque that Avraham Shapira could use to light his cigar and not notice the difference (even though - for the record - Shapira's net after-tax receipt is smaller than Sarid's).

People with outside incomes have outside business interests. Those whose only business is the Knesset should be entitled to a better deal from their sole employer.

ON SIDE BENEFITS the committee is strict, and to the Knesset's credit the recommendations here have also been accepted. Free medical treatment for members, families and dependents is henceforth abolished. The report observes, perhaps with relief, that they all happen to belong to one or other of the medical insurance schemes anyway. Let them content themselves with that, it implies.

years. And there were other beneficial arrangements for them.

The Nebenzahl committee sweeps all this aside.

In future, the MK is to get his 4 per cent per annum after the age of 40 and that is that, with no trimmings.

HE ALSO receives expense allowances and, broadly speaking, the committee does not query the listed scales. It even improves some - but takes the opportunity of instilling a bit of discipline into the parliamentary scene. The meal allowance is raised from a measly NIS 10 a day to NIS 16.75 - but not automatically for every day the Knesset is in session, as at present. One delinquent member continued to get his meal allowance

Contrary to popular belief, the report adds, employment opportunities for an ex-MK are not that good. (Former Knesset speaker Menahem Savidor, for example, is still waiting for a break. He cannot in all fairness be expected to enrol as a postman or a bank clerk).

OUT OF AN excess of self-pity, however, the Knesset improved on the 4 per cent per annum arrangement, indicating - the time has come to say this - how erroneous it is to give an occupation-group even as exalted as Israel's legislative assembly authority to fix its own wages and conditions of work.

It fixed for itself pension minimums. A person who had served for four years should get 16 per cent of his last wage; but the sum actually allocated was 20 per cent.

After eight years, entitling him strictly speaking to 32 per cent, he got 40 per cent. Should he be 50 years old, the veteran with eight years' service received a 50 per cent pension. After 12 years (48 per cent by rights), the entitlement was 60 per cent.

The absolute maximum is 70 per cent: nobody can go above that, as is the rule of all pensioners. But back-benchers aged 75 rated the full 70 per cent even if they had only sat for five

(and his car allowance to boot) day after day while serving a sentence in Ramle jail.

Parliamentarians will henceforth rate the allowance only on those days when they are present in the House. Ditto for the above-mentioned car allowance.

MKS who do not own a car get free bus and train travel, but they pay for any taxis out of their own pockets. The committee considerably recommends NIS 300 a month as a travel allowance for the carless - again, with deductions for non-attendance.

The cost of entertaining guests in the Knesset canteen ought, in the committee's view, to be defrayed, though no allowance exists now. It proposes a modest limit, however, of

Finally, phone calls. Members are permitted 25,000 metre-units annually; that is, 25,000 local calls, but fewer if they are inter-urban calls and a good deal fewer if they are international calls. The privilege is theirs forever, and even after they die the widow gets half her telephone bills paid up to that limit.

One supposes that a Knesset member is assumed to remain a public figure even after his term of service. At any rate, the committee does not take issue with this entitlement, except for recommending that after retirement, the calls ought not to be altogether free. The government should pay not more than 70 per cent of the bill (just as the maximum pension is 70 per cent of the full salary); with half of that presumably for the widow.

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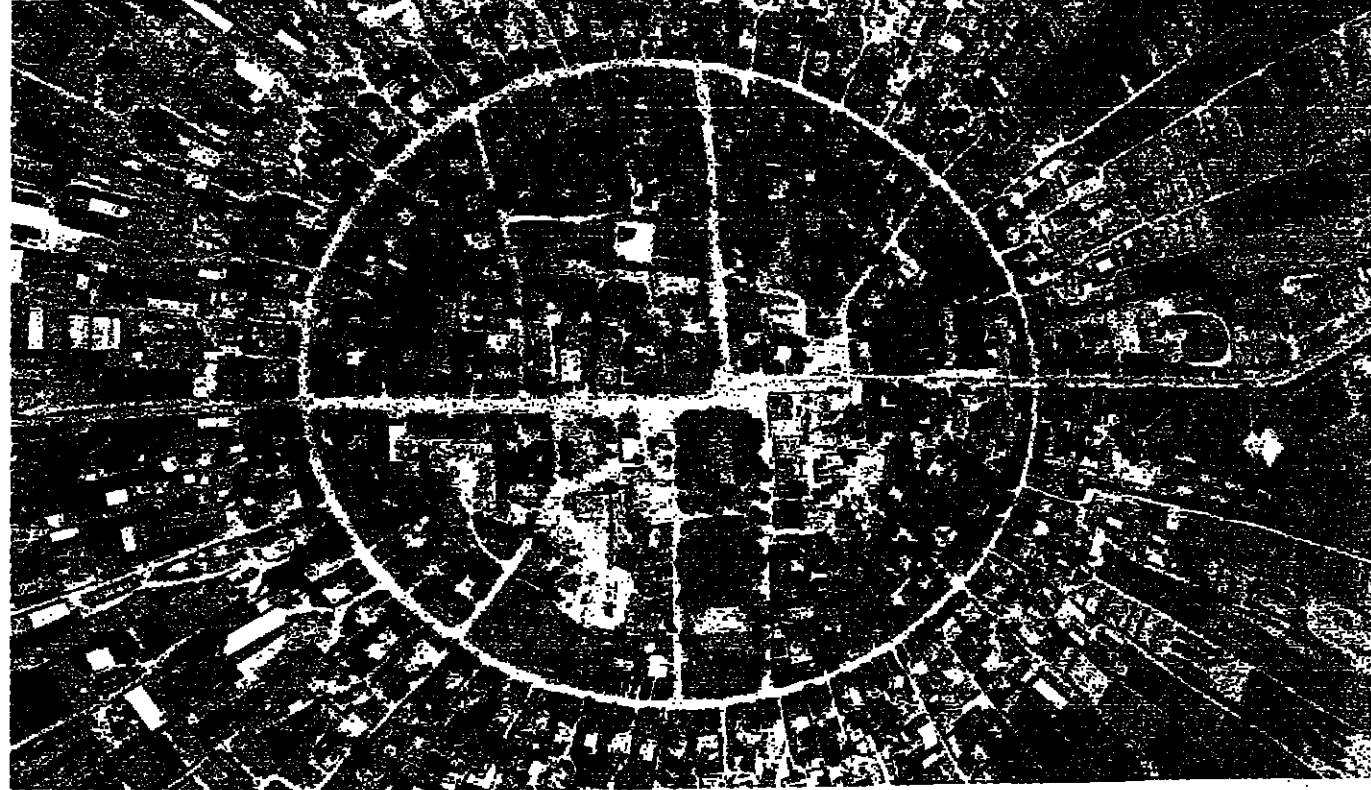
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Settling in Pit'hat Shalom



Nahalal, the first moshav.

Capitalist revolution in the moshav movement

IN AN obscure corner of the country which borders Egypt and the Gaza Strip, a group of young moshavim in financial trouble have abandoned a fundamental premise of the moshav movement — the idea that each farmer assumes responsibility for his neighbour's debts. Their experiment is, depending on who one talks to, a limited solution to a desperate crisis, a first step towards an imminent revolution, or a short-sighted blunder that could endanger Jewish settlement in areas that are already sparsely populated.

The change has occurred in roughly 10 to 20 moshavim throughout the country, but principally in the Pit'hat Shalom area. Some 180 families, in six moshavim there, have discarded the system of mutual guarantees (*aravut la'adamit*) for a more individualistic approach. They have, in a sense, taken a turn towards pure capitalism.

Before this, the moshav's economic unit, the cooperative, extended credit to all members, even if they had lost money in previous seasons and were sinking deeper into debt. Under the new system, each farmer is essentially on his own. If he needs a loan, he'll have to go to the bank and find relatives, friends, or a business partner, willing to guarantee his loan. The cooperative will no longer serve as a safety net, leaving the

good farmers with a better chance of success than the weaker ones. "At least now everyone knows that what he cooks is what he eats," said Nissim Zvili, head of Talmei Yosef's executive committee.

The change is partly a reaction to the excesses that precipitated the debt crisis of many moshavim. The past system of unlimited mutual guarantees between members caused moshavim to get into a trap of continually extending credit to farmers who were sinking deeper and deeper into debt. When the situation got so bad that the more successful or confident moshav members began to see that they might have to actually pay for their neighbour's debts, independence became an attractive option.

"It's important to understand that this is an emergency programme," said Nissim Zvili, head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department, which worked out the scheme with the farmers. "I don't propose to do this with all the country. I propose to do this only to prevent total disintegration, to preserve and save what can be saved. If we didn't do this, the families wouldn't remain there and the moshavim wouldn't remain there."

EXPERTS DISAGREE over what Pit'hat Shalom's experiment may

mean for the rest of the country's moshavim.

"That area will become one of the richest and most successful areas of Israel, and it's only the beginning of a revolution that will spread throughout the country," said Ra'anun Weitz, head of the Settlement Study Centre in Rehovot, an independent research institute.

One of the architects of the system of mutual guarantees that was used to create the moshavim that absorbed masses of agriculturally inexperienced immigrants during the 50s and 60s, Weitz now believes that a new order is needed for the "super-specialized," highly technological course that Israel agriculture must now pursue.

A farmer on a traditional moshav generally has some margin for error. Since a mistake with one crop can be redeemed by profits from his chicken house or some other crop. But today's more modern operations, such as those at Pit'hat Shalom, involve growing genetically engineered varieties of vegetables, fruits and flowers specifically for winter export.

"Here if you mess up your tomatoes you are out of business," Weitz said. "The more specialized Israel agriculture becomes, the more it needs the ingenuity, dedication and endeavour of the farmer."

'Andy Court

Only a system which does away entirely with mutual guarantees and treats each farm unit like an individual business will provide sufficient incentive and also weed out those farmers not suited for the task, he said.

Yehonatan Daniel, secretary of the Moshav Movement, sees only one problem with Weitz's optimistic vision of the future: he doesn't think any settlements will survive.

"The argument isn't agriculture," Daniel said. "The argument is settlement. Between Eilat and Sdom there's no city, only kibbutzim and moshavim. People won't live in areas like the Arava if there isn't collective settlement."

How, Daniel asks, will young people who don't have rich relatives be able to finance their farm operations? Who will guarantee their loans? Even if one farmer signs a guarantee privately with his neighbour, one serious snag will bankrupt them both. A larger group of farmers, guaranteeing each other's loans, have a greater margin for error and more collective financial power. That was, after all, the whole idea of mutual guarantees in the first place.

"The way to avoid the excesses that the mutual guarantees encouraged in the past is to make sure that the guarantees are limited to a specific sum," Daniel said.

"We don't think that a moshav can be a moshav without some mutual guarantees, because we don't see any other alternative (for financing farms)," he said. "If the government and the Jewish Agency are prepared to accept responsibility and sign the guarantees for the loans, I'll say, 'Fine, I'm willing to do away with mutual guarantees.' But I don't see any possibility that it will happen."

If the new order that Weitz predicts really comes to pass, the settlements now occupying areas far from the city will disappear and be replaced by large privately-owned farms, Daniel predicted. "We can have a few big farms like they have in California, only with Arab instead of Mexican labourers working in the fields. Do we want that in the Arava?"

WHILE EXPERTS ponder the future of the country's moshavim, farmers at Talmei Yosef and elsewhere are trying to make the new system work, while still worrying about their previous debts. "It's not nice to wait for someone to come and take your property," said Zvili, the head of Talmei Yosef's executive committee. At least two of the six moshavim

— Talmei Yosef and Dekel — have seen their creditors go to court and seek a receiver to divide up the assets of their cooperatives. The Jewish Agency, the banks, the government, and the settlers are negotiating over these back debts, but the outcome is uncertain.

The Pit'hat Shalom settlements moved to their current locations from Sinai after the Camp David agreement was implemented. Located in an area with sandy soil and lots of sun, the farmers can grow summer vegetables in wintertime, using plastic greenhouses heated passively by the sun. A key crop is tomatoes, and the farmers raising that crop reportedly profited greatly from the tomato dearth in the local market this year.

The changes that have occurred at the moshavim mainly concern financial responsibility and marketing. The moshav members continue to cooperate on services such as education, health, and cultural activities, but the cooperative as a whole no longer extends credit to its members. Any future loans are a private matter between the farmer, his banker and his friends who guarantee his loan. The Jewish Agency and Bank Hapoalim have established a fund to lend these moshavim money, but the loans will only be to credit-worthy individuals, not automatic instalments to all moshav members.

When it comes to marketing products locally, farmers no longer have to send their produce to wherever the cooperative decides. They can now market wherever they want, although a majority still go through basically the same channels they used before, Zvili said.

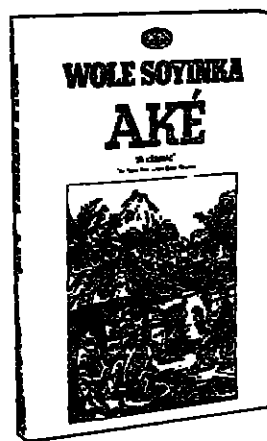
In addition to the structural changes at the moshavim, the psychology has changed as well. "Today it's clear that if I lose, I can lose only once," said one farmer at Moshav Dekel.

THE QUESTION NOW is mainly whether the changes will work. Since the new system started in September, the beginning of the agricultural season, production has increased by about 30 per cent, Zvili said. But he and other Jewish Agency officials are reluctant to draw any conclusions until they at least see the complete results of the first season.

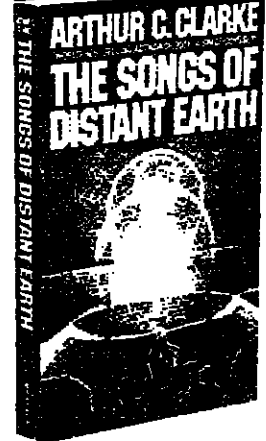
It certainly seems that what was formerly a collective crisis has been transformed, in at least one small part of the country, into a series of individual struggles. "Whoever doesn't succeed will have to work at something else (outside the farm) or else leave," said Zvili of Talmei Yosef. "At least now, if we can come to some kind of arrangement of our debt, some of us can continue to exist. The old system caused us all to be a failure."

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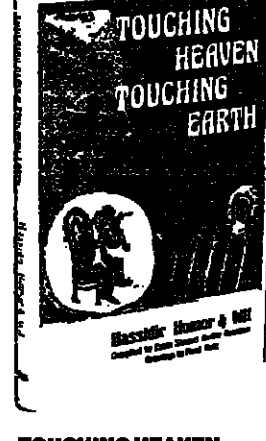


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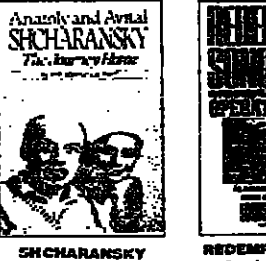
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This week's reading: Vayigash (Genesis 44:18-47:27)

THE GREATNESS of Tora and the sense of discovery that it entails lie in the fact that it was never the exclusive domain of rabbis and other professional scholars. "Every one has a share in Tora." Not only can Tora enrich everyone's life...but everyone can also enrich Tora from his or her own personal experience and knowledge.

The full rainbow of insights into Tora came from the fact that it was studied by all people. Educated laymen became educating laymen in the process of learning. People joining or forming *havrutot* (study circles) teach each other how to probe deeper and deeper into the ocean of Tora. They soon learn that it is not impossible and how rewarding it is. Those study circles taught by lay people are now to be found all over the world.

Recently we were privileged to meet one of the pioneering and perhaps the longest-lasting of such study groups led by a well-known Chicago lawyer for more than 50 years. After returning again and again to the same texts for so many years, Norman Asher, the leader of the group, testifies that those are still always fresh, always new: always raising new questions and new answers.

Here is Mr. Asher's contribution for this week's Tora portion:

THE STORY begins when Joseph was 17 years old. Unfortunately, Jacob showed his preference for Joseph over his brothers, giving the lad a "coat of many colours."

The brothers plotted to kill Joseph, and when the opportunity offered itself, they stripped him of his clothes and threw him into a pit in the wilderness. Somewhat later they sold him to the caravans that were passing through on their way to Egypt. Eventually he was sold into bondage in that country.

The brothers had to go home and face their father, Jacob, but they were not willing to tell him what had taken place. Instead, they take the coat of many colours, slaughter a goat, dip the coat in the blood, and present it to Jacob and say: Here is what we found. Is it your son's coat? Jacob burst into tears and said: A wild beast has devoured my son (Genesis 37:29-36).

We now follow the story of Joseph in Egypt. He is a bondsman to Potiphar, one of the cabinet of Pharaoh. Now he must have had great talent because, still a young man, he becomes a major domo of Potiphar's house and he is running the household (Genesis 39:4).

At this point the intrigue starts. Why didn't he, Joseph, a dutiful son, communicate with his father in Canaan and tell him that he was still alive? Why should he have kept silent for 22 years?

It is curious to note that in rabbinical literature Joseph is referred to

Tora Today
Pinhas H. Peli

as *Yosef Ha-zadik*, "the righteous Joseph." Is that righteousness? Is that the way to honour your father, not letting him know that you are still alive and to let him mourn and grieve for 22 years?

The rabbis called him Joseph the righteous, because he did not allow himself to be seduced by Potiphar's wife. But that is only one element of his character. When they label him "the righteous," they mean to encompass his entire behaviour. However, in his relationship to his father Jacob, his actions do not appear to have been righteous.

In the final scene, even when the brothers return to Canaan under instruction from Pharaoh and Joseph to tell their father, Jacob, that Joseph is alive, they do not say anything about the events of the past.

Tora (Genesis 45:28) relates that when they told their father the story, he expressed disbelief. In fact the text states that he fainted. He must have thought it a real sorry joke, that is, until he saw the gifts sent by Joseph which were carried in wagons. Only when Jacob saw these wagons did he believe that Joseph was still alive and he said: Now I will go to see my son Joseph. Now I am willing to go to Egypt. What was it that he saw in the wagons that made him change his mind, that persuaded him that Joseph was still alive and the brothers were now telling him the truth?

The Midrash, quoted by Rashi, explains that the sight of the wagons brought to Jacob's mind the Tora chapter that he had been studying just before his disappearance with his son 22 years earlier. The subject they had been discussing was the *egla arufa*, the beheaded heifer (Deuteronomy, Chapter 21). It involves a ritual which prescribed that if a man was found slain in open country in Israel, it was the duty of the judges and the elders of the surrounding communities to ascertain the circumstances of the killing.

Each nearby city must not only investigate but must measure which was closest to the corpse. The elders of that city, the judges and priests, were required to go through a ritual of beheading a young heifer, making the declaration that "our hands have not participated in his blood-letting, in this killing." Instead of allowing them to wash their hands of responsibility, the Jewish tradition implicates the nearest city in the guilt for this death.

WHY DID THE Midrash use such a far-fetched reference, connecting the "egla arufa," the heifer, with the "agalot," the wagons? The Midrash wishes to tell us that in sending the

"wagons" — *agalot* — its Hebrew word association with the "heifer" — *agla* — Joseph hinted to his father why he had not communicated with him all these years.

It is my position, claims the learned attorney, that Joseph's reminder was a gentle reproach to his father. Being aware of the obligation of a true leader, to prevent bloodshed and crime in his community, Joseph conveyed to his father that he had been remiss in not pursuing the needed investigation upon the disappearance of his son. He should not have been easily deflected by the sight of Joseph's blood-soaked coat of many colours, but should have made every effort to investigate further. Did he go out or send somebody to look? Did he interrogate the brothers to find out what actually happened?

All he did was weep and mourn. He did nothing further. That is why Joseph hesitated to tell his father that he was still alive. After his anger lessened, he had another good reason. And that, I think, emphasizes the true character of Joseph, the "righteous."

Joseph faced a real dilemma: If I notify my father that I am still alive, the whole truth must come out. How did I get to Egypt? Did I run away voluntarily and become a slave voluntarily? That would not ring true. Since I was elevated to be viceroy of Egypt, my father would certainly try to find out why I did not communicate with him and why the brothers did not let him know where I was or what might have happened to me. The problem was that if he had told his father where he was and what had happened, Jacob would have been in a difficult situation.

As the leader of the tribe, he would have had an obligation to enforce the law and punish his sons severely. Then what would have happened? Instead of unity he would have had family disunity.

This dilemma Joseph solved as a question of balance: it was preferable to him to let his father grieve for 22 years, than to cause the disruption of the family.

It would appear to me that, although Scripture is very terse, there are some indications that Jacob did not really believe his sons. He doubted that Joseph had been killed by an animal. He was not mourned for Joseph but he was really unhappy over the lack of integrity of his sons. That is really what made him suffer; and thus he also faced a dilemma, not knowing what to do.

Between Joseph's dilemma and Jacob's doubts, they both finally decided to keep quiet and let the Lord take care of things. They believed in miracles; and miracles happened. And that is how they came to the happy conclusion: Jacob and Joseph were reunited.

Rabbi Peli is the Blechier Professor of Jewish thought and literature, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

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SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Maccabi: anatomy of a loss

By DON GOULD

In the space of a few short minutes at the conclusion of Wednesday night's game, Maccabi Tel Aviv dropped the depressing distance from contention to almost also-ran in the European Cup Competition.

Israel's champions led by five points, 77-72, with only two minutes left to play in the third round game in Orthez, when disaster struck. When it was over, Maccabi had snatched defeat from the jaws of victory, losing 78-77 on a shot by Orthez Senegalese star Gabat with six seconds left.

Until those final, fateful minutes, Maccabi, desperately in need of an away victory to stay in contention for the finals, seemed to have found the perfect patsy in unheralded but undefeated Orthez.

Even the poorly-lit bandbox which the French team uses as an excuse for a home court, and which, by itself, makes life difficult for visiting teams, did not seem to disturb Maccabi. They played most of the game with a determination not yet seen in splitting their opening two games of European play.

Coach Zvi Sherf opted to start three big men up front, inserting Howie Lasoff into the starting lineup in place of Doron Jaffe. For most of the game, the tactic proved effective—only when Maccabi returned to a three-guard lineup did they flounder.

Maccabi were on top for nearly the entire 40 minutes of play, led by the sharp playmaking of point-guard Chen Lipin, the strong rebounding of Lee Johnson and the hot shooting of Kevin Magee. Maccabi led their



BOXED OUT. — Lee Johnson, left, and Howie Lasoff, right, look on as Orthez Tom Schaffer comes down with the ball in Wednesday night's last-minute, 78-77 heartbreak loss. (AFP telephoto)

lead only briefly early in the second quarter when Orthez grabbed a 32-30 short lived lead, but they were never behind again until the final six seconds.

Many on Maccabi questioned the refereeing after the game, claiming Gabat should have been called for an offensive foul on his winning hoop.

Other questions abound: Why didn't Lasoff seem to realize that he

was running out of time to get the ball in bounds after the disputed basket? And how could the German ref make the half-court violation call against Maccabi that gave Orthez the ball and a chance to win the game in the final minute when both Jamchee and Lasoff were clearly in Maccabi's half of the court?

But the biggest question mark of them all, why did Maccabi break up the three-man front

with eight minutes to go and a 10-point advantage? Shouldn't Greg Cornille have been used if Lasoff needed a breather? Whatever the answers, Maccabi stopped playing their game and allowed Orthez to creep slowly back into theirs.

Now, nothing short of a double victory next week against the Russians in Brussels will put Maccabi back in the race for the European Cup.

SOCCER

By PAUL KOHN

TEL AVIV. — Three weeks of "Toto Cup" football kick off at Lod this afternoon, where the first and second in Group Four, Maccabi Jaffa and Hapoel Lod, meet.

Although in 15th position in the league standings, Maccabi Jaffa head their group with seven points from three games. Lod, Betar Jerusalem and Hapoel Beersheba are next in that order. The Lod attack will be led by Vicky Perez, supported by Benny Smadja and Ronen Hillel. Veteran Shlomo Kirat is now a key man in the Jaffa defence.

Betar Jerusalem, virtually at full

strength, will visit Beersheba.

The added spice to this game will be the recollection that Hapoel Beersheba inflicted the last league defeat on Betar (1-0) at this ground six weeks ago. Beersheba have not achieved much since that memorable day, while Betar went on to five consecutive league wins. Kick off at 2.30 p.m.

In Group Two, Hapoel Kfar Sava entertain Maccabi Haifa. The two are tied at the top of the group with six points each. Zahi Ameli is expected back to lead the Haifa attack after his absence due to injury, and Baruch Maman and Daniel Bravov-

ky will also be in the visitors' line-up. Facing them is a rejuvenated Kfar Sava team that at its best plays attractive attacking football, led by Eli Yanni and Yitzhak Maimony.

Bnei Yehuda, who top Group One, will field a weakened side against Hapoel Tel Aviv at the Hatikva Quarter. Strikers Moshe Eisenberg and Guy Sharabi are with the national youth team and Michel Dayan and Avinoam Malichi are injured.

In second division games, Hapoel Jerusalem, seeking to recover from their 2-0 midweek defeat in Be'er, will play in the capital against Shasrayim of Rehovot. Leaders Hapoel Be'er

play at home against Tiberias, but the next three games — Hapoel Be'er, Yehud and Hapoel Holon — all have tricky away games.

Toto Cup fixtures:
Betar Tel Aviv v Mac Yavne today at 2.30 p.m. at Winter Stadium.
Mac TT v Mac TA, tomorrow at 2.30 at Petah Tikva.
Mac Netanya v Hap. PT, tomorrow at 2.30 at Netanya.
Betar Netanya v Shimon TA, tomorrow at 12.30 at Netanya.
Second Division:
Dinora v Yehud, today at 2 p.m. at Beersheba; Hap. Acre v Betar Naliariya, today at 2.30 at Acre.
Hap. Haifa v Tiberias; Hap. J'm v Shasrayim; Ramat Anshar v Holon; Hakoah v Hap. Be'er; Hapoel Be'er v Hap. Be'er; Hapoel Be'er v Hap. Be'er, all tomorrow.

Toto Cup takes over

NBA

Birdless Celtics fly

NEW YORK (AP). — With four days off to rebuild their strength, the Boston Celtics were ready to pound injury-plagued Milwaukee even without Larry Bird in the lineup.

Kevin Michale scored 28 points as the Celtics beat the Bucks 119-92 on Wednesday night for their sixth straight victory. Boston's last loss was 120-100 to the Bucks in Milwaukee on December 20.

Bird missed the game with a lower back strain, but guard Danny Ainge said that being off since last Friday helped the Celtics overcome his absence.

"When Larry's out, you know there's no room for a letdown," said Ainge, who scored 17 points. "But we had three good days of practice and our intensity level was up. We

would have been tough to beat by any team."

The Bucks, whose leading scorer was Jerry Reynolds with only 15 points, played without injured starters Sidney Moncrief and Paul Pressey.

Milwaukee, who had played at home on Saturday and Tuesday before travelling to Boston, got no closer than 14 points in the second half.

Other NBA action: Lakers 147 (Byron Scott) 23, Magic Johnson 20 points and 12 assists; Nuggets 109 (Alex English 17; Yaw 10) (CHI) 109 (Curtis Rivers 17; Charles Barkley 25 points and 15 rebounds); Hawks 102 (Dominique Wilkins 24; Nene 11) (Buck Williams, 28 points and 18 rebounds); Orlando 100 (Dwight Gooden 28 points and 18 rebounds); Spurs 103 (Alvin Robertson 26; Pistons 122 (Isiah Thomas, 33 points and 19 assists); Knicks 111 (Pat Ewing, 30 points and 14 rebounds).

MEN'S TENNIS. — Top-seed Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia reached the quarterfinals of the New Zealand Open yesterday with a 6-3, 6-3 second-round win over Canadian Glenn Michalski at Auckland.

Follow Czech and second-seed Milan Srejber was eliminated by unseeded American Bud Schultz, a finalist in the tournament last year, won 2-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Last year's champion, Mark Woodford of Australia, missed a quarterfinal place when he was beaten 3-6, 6-1, 6-8 by Dutchman Michel Schapers.

WOMEN'S TENNIS. — Australian Wendy Turnbull upset top-seeded Hana Mandlikova 6-3, 7-5 yesterday in the third round of the \$150,000 New South Wales Open tennis championships at Sydney, Australia.

Second-seeded Pam Shriver also started into the final night with an impressive 6-3, 6-1 victory over another American, Graciele Bush.

Refined Sotomayor of Czechoslovakia, the third seed, got a pass into the quarterfinals when American Anna-Maria Fernandez withdrew with a back injury with Sotomayor leading 5-3 in the first set.

TENNIS

Mac out of Australian Open

MELBOURNE (Reuter). — A back injury has forced John McEnroe out of the Australian Open Tennis Championships starting here on Monday, organisers said yesterday.

Tournament Director Colin Stubs said he was told of McEnroe's withdrawal by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

Stubs said McEnroe's father, John McEnroe, Sr. informed the ATP office in Dallas, Texas, that his son aggravated a back injury while prac-

ticing on grass in Palm Springs in preparation for the Open.

A telex to the ATP stated that McEnroe's doctor had advised him against playing, Stubs said.

Stubs said he was very disappointed McEnroe, ranked 14th in the world, had pulled out.

"But despite the withdrawal, we have an outstanding men's field headed by the two top ranked players in the world, Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker," Stubs said.

AMERICA'S CUP

Aussie yacht disqualified

FREMANTLE (Reuter). — Australia IV was disqualified yesterday from its victory over Kookaburra III, leaving its place in the America's Cup defender final hanging on yet another international yachting jury decision.

The jury ruled that Australia IV skipper Colin Beashel was in the wrong in a collision with Kookaburra III in their race on Wednesday which concluded the defender semifinals.

If the panel now decides to allow a

rehearing of a protest from Kookaburra II over its defeat by Australia IV on Tuesday and then rules in Kookaburra's favour, the best-of-nine race defender final would become an all-Kookaburra affair.

Yesterday's jury decision transfers six points to Kookaburra III which lost the race by 24 seconds after it took in water through a gash in its bow.

Kookaburra III now tops the standings with 83 points against Australia IV's 77 and Kookaburra II on 70.

The fixers

Telereview / Philip Gillon

THE DOMINANT characteristic of Israelis, according to Dr. Yehuda Sprinzak, who appeared on *This is the Time* on Monday, is the ability to sidestep the law. We do not claim that it does not exist, or that we do not know about it; we simply ignore it, sometimes noisily and openly, sometimes quietly and covertly.

The main example that he gave Ram Evron was Gush Emunim, who claimed the right to defy the law about settlements on the West Bank because they were justified by a higher law.

One of the advantages of being belligerently Orthodox is that you have the Almighty on your side, and even the most secular of Israeli politicians, apart from Shulamit Aloni, are not prepared to get into a showdown with you and Him.

Even an unbeliever must consider the remote possibility that he errs, and that He is up there, keeping a register of everything each one of us does. So it is simple prudence not to quarrel with Him. It is just like taking out insurance against a possible hazard.

But Sprinzak was at great pains to emphasize that his theory about the Israeli's willingness to commit illicit actions goes far beyond the ultra-Orthodox sector. He said people act outside the law, or in defiance of it, in the name of Zionism or security or foreign policy or ideology or whatever.

Sometimes they break the law for mere financial gain, or to cover up crimes, as in the Shin Bet affair. Dr. Sprinzak said that what he called "illegalism" was rife in the Labour movement, which he himself supported, from the earliest days of the state.

Evron put it to him that illegalism may have developed as a way of life for Jews in the days of the Mandate, when it was essential for the survival and development of the Yishuv. I assume he had in mind David Ben-Gurion's defiance of the 1939 White Paper that inspired Jews around the world with so much pride.

PERSONALLY, I see "illegalism" as the main weapon of the population in the constant fight against "them," the mysterious powers, consisting of politicians and bureaucrats, who are constantly trying to put the bulk of the people down and to make us all miserable, while "they" shower benefits on a privileged few.

Soon after I came to Israel, I came across the magic Hebrew word *lehistader*, which is literally "to arrange oneself." But this translation does not do full justice to what is meant. To say with admiration about somebody that "he knows how *lehistader*" means that he knows how to fix "them" and to come out on top, whatever happens.

It was this ability *lehistader* that led to the creation of a flourishing black market in food in the early years of the state, when former Canadian Dov Joseph had the crazy idea that he could get food rationing to work in newly-born Israel, just as it had worked in Britain during World War II.

The nation let him pass his wonderful regulations and issue his little ration books and stamps, then quietly set about feeding itself. The amazing thing is that they found food illicitly, although in theory there was no food whatsoever in the country.

The same thing happened with money. "They" imposed exorbitant and ridiculous taxes that make Israelis the most heavily taxed people on the face of this overtaxed planet. So we have a black market and a grey market and, for all I know, a blue market and a green market into the bargain.

Again, in theory, there shouldn't have been any money available, and yet the *histaderim* managed to find it, and to this day they have bundles of dollars, and Swiss francs, and German marks, and Japanese yen, in defiance of "them."

Similarly, they manage to acquire new automobiles and whatever consumer items become fashionable; they have money to roam the earth every year and to keep up with the American Cohens. Ask how it's done. A shrug of the shoulders and "I *mistader*."

THE EMPEROR of the *histaderim*, of course, is Ernest Japhet. Already in 1983, when the first Stock Exchange crash was engineered, I noticed that his repeated statements had been largely responsible for the disaster. In any other country he would have been thrown out on his ear. He remained at his post.

Then came the bank shares calamity, followed by the Bjeiski Commission's report. The commission found Japhet guilty of heinous banking offences and it recommended that he should be removed from the chairmanship of Bank Leumi.

As we all know now, he agreed to go quietly, without making a fuss, provided he got some trifling compensation and a small pension.

There is a lesson in his experience for all of us. Instead of doing our jobs to the best of our ability, year after year, till we reach pensionable age and are put out to pasture with a speech, a watch and a minimal pension — on which the Finance Ministry turns its greedy eyes — we should behave so negligently that our employer decides that he has to get rid of us, no matter what it costs him. That would be *histadering* in the Japhet tradition.

Another great *histaderer* in our midst is Avraham Shalom, the villain in the Shin Bet affair, who has ended up with a cushy job provided for him by his old mate, Arik Sharon, while the cads who insisted on "informing" about the murders and cover-up sit on a bench outside the labour exchange waiting for work. Serves them right, for their atrocious crime of objecting to a little killing and perjury.

Yet another expert on the noble art of *histadering* is Rafi Eitan, rewarded by Sharon for the mess he made in the Pollard affair with one of the fanciest posts in the country.

THIS HAS BEEN a very interesting week for viewers, because of the introduction of new thrillers and comedies. I must say that I like McGyver immensely: he is the kind of handyman I would like to have around the house to wrestle with all the appliances that go wrong. He might even be able to fix my telephone, a feat way beyond the competence of Bezek. It is curious that the same technicians, when they were mere civil servants, could repair a phone. Here is a case where a change in nomenclature was catastrophic.

Of all McGyver's feats, the most miraculous was the one whereby he saved half the population of the United States from being poisoned with sulphuric acid: he did this very simply, by plugging a leak with three

bars of chocolate. There must be few people in the world, including Nobel Prize winners, who know that chocolate is lethal to sulphuric acid.

If future episodes are as intriguing as the first one, we are going to enjoy our Tuesday nights. McGyver had a great throwaway line whenever he was about to scale a mountain or a 400-foot ladder: "I hate heights." Generally, he made James Bond seem very feeble.

WE ALSO have two new British comedies, one — *Three Up, Two Down* — English sitcom about a hoity-toity upper-class dame from Cheltenham who has to share a basement with her Cockney in-law. I wouldn't say it is wonderful stuff, but it has possibilities.

Unfortunately, somehow or other the execrable Benny Hill has crept back into our lives. He is known as the man with a thousand faces: I find every single one of them revolting. He also tells a thousand jokes, every one of which is nauseating.

As I have written before, British humour divides into three categories. There are the subtle satires like *Yes, Prime Minister*, which are superb; the middle-of-the-road comedies, like *Three Up, Two Down*, which are predictable but enjoyable; and the coarse, earthy humour of the Benny Hills and Ronnie Bakers, which are ghastly.

In theory, I suppose, this humour goes all the way back to the great comedies of Shakespeare. In practice, it does not bear the slightest resemblance to them. Instead of belly laughter, it excites prurient sniggers and a deep sense of shame. It relies on the most degenerate concepts of sex and bodily functions. I trust that Benny Hill will be buried fast.

I HAVE decided that my entire approach to *Dynasty* has been wrong from the start. Because Denver is somewhere in the same part of America as Dallas, I assumed that *Dynasty* was meant to be a competitor for *Dallas*. Now I have become convinced that it is made tongue-in-cheek, as a satire on the Texan product, like *Soap* was on *Peyton Place* and its successors.

Considered as a joke, it's screamingly funny. I have come to realize that Blake Carrington is not a villain like J.R., but a *mishken* whom everybody ill-treats, because he is always trying to do the right thing. They all give him hell, and he goes on doing his best for them. His reward? This week he ended up blind.

Now we'll find out what the Carrington dynasty is made of. What will they do to avenge him? I expect a march by the oilmen on Las Vegas. We'll see what we shall see.

ANOTHER item on Ram Evron's programme brought us Professor Chaim Brautbar of Hadassah, the country's leading expert on tissue-typing to find suitable donors for people in need of transplants.

Brautbar is a born teacher, if ever I have heard one, who really enjoys expounding complicated subjects in simple terms: he made the wonder of bone marrow transplantation, which provides a complete cure when it is successful, intelligible.

With him on the programme was a lovely girl, Liora, who has taken a year's leave from her kibbutz to organize a bone-marrow bank at Hadassah, because her father, a leukemia patient, could not find a suitable donor. It was good to learn that the programme's appeal for donors met with a wonderful response. From six o'clock the next morning, the phone rang incessantly.

JUDO

Judo thrives in Jerusalem

By ORI LEWIS

A mini-boom in judo, particularly among the youth, is developing in Israel. Throughout this week, an international meeting between a team of boys and girls from the English Midlands and national Israeli youth squads took place at the Roma community centre in Jerusalem.

The British contingent seemed stronger than their Israeli counterparts by far. Indeed, our girls in particular have a long way to go before they reach the level of the British girls. Israel had to field a weakened adult women's team to compete against the British under-18 contingent.

There are some 2,500 active judoka (judo addicts) in Israel and 4,500 non-active members registered with the Israel Judo Association. "Given the lack of publicity that the sport has had in Israel, that is quite a large number," said Zerah Nativ, secretary of the IJA and a former national

and Maccabiah champion.

The British teams are here for five days of training, after which they will return home. Their coach, Malcolm Collins was very enthusiastic about their coming to Israel. Even though the Israelis are generally of a lower standard than their English counterparts, he believes that his team can still benefit a great deal from this trip. Among Collins' fine squad of judoka are Anisim Moshemodally, the European under 18 girls champion, and Nicola Fairbrother, who is second in the same category.

Many of the top Israeli judoka were missing from the meet for various reasons. Nativ assured me that if they had been present, the competition would have been much more evenly balanced. The Israelis did attain some victories. In the boys category they put up a fair performance, although they were not strong enough overall to beat the British team.

Nativ and Collins both agree that

the only way to improve the standard of judo in Israel is to have more of these international meetings between teams. "When you get the top level in your own country, you aren't going to get any better, unless you can get to compete against a lower standard from abroad," says Collins. Nativ says that the standard of Israeli judo is equal to that of the Scandinavians — that is, a mediocre European standard. "Our problem is that we can only afford one trip abroad a year," says Nativ. But the Israelis are doing their utmost to bring foreign competitions here in order to raise standards.

Yossi Lev, who is one of the main proponents of getting judo off the ground in a major way in the capital, is the sports administrator of Hapoel Jerusalem. The Roma Community Centre has wonderful facilities for judo, with a sparkling new matress and a very impressive hall. Lev says that other community centres are also developing judo as a sport-

ing activity. "There are some 1,500 active judo enthusiasts in and around the capital, and we would like to turn that large quantity of people into better judoka."

Judo seems to be a sport for the younger generation. Nativ, now 32, cannot participate in competitions because of his post as secretary of the IJA, but he still enjoys occasional bouts.

"Judo has been in existence in Israel for only 20 years. There are not many judoka from the older generation who still compete, so we have to develop new young champions," says Nativ.

NEL. — Results of Wednesday night's games: Rangers 3, Casadim 2 (OT); Flyers 6, Rangers 3; Penguins 5, Capitals 2; Blackhawks 6, Maple Leafs 4; Blues 6, Whalers 3; Sabres 4, Jets 2; Kings 6, Oilers 1.

SOCCER. — Brazil and Uruguay tied 0-0 on Wednesday in the second game of the Pate Cup soccer tournament in Sao Paulo, Brazil for former soccer greats over 34.

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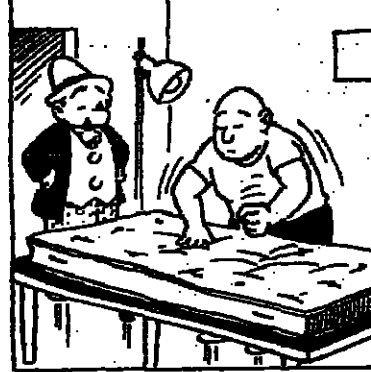
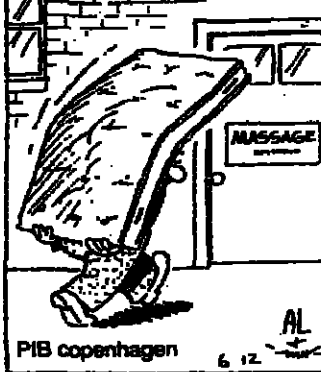
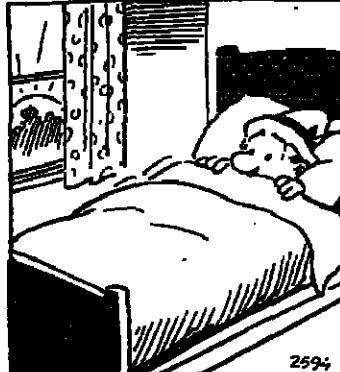
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Wanda Mae Long-Lewis

"LEUMIGATE," for want of a better word, is what the affair has become. Everything has been simmering for weeks and months, in some respects for years. But in one week, the Bank Leumi scandal has reached critical mass, and a chain reaction has started which has gotten out of control and could spread far beyond anyone's worst nightmares.

It is impossible even to say where it began, because some of the dirt now flying comes from layers of business strata dating back years, maybe decades. Key dates, working backwards, can be ascertained as January 1987, April-May 1986, October 1983, January 1983, and soon, back down the line, each representing a signpost on a road which has placed Bank Leumi, Israel's oldest and, in many respects largest bank, in the most dire straits it has ever faced.

There are two separate aspects of "Leumigate" that need stressing at length, because they have been largely ignored in the rush of daily revelations and events. One is the internal state of Bank Leumi itself. Whereas six months ago, the general feeling in the bank was one of optimism, at least regarding the medium and long term future of the institution, it is not its own short-term profitability and the salary prospects of most of its staff, today those positive feelings have been replaced by a number of overlapping emotions, all of them negative.

Confusion, frustration, a sense of being betrayed and cheated, and a consequential mistrust of the colleagues and superiors are the dominant sentiments of most Leumi staffers from the lowest levels to senior management positions. Their very real pain found expression this week at the works committee meeting, but ad hoc discussions in branches and offices up and down the country make it clear that, for once, that committee was not posturing. The anger is genuine, and cannot be neutralized with a few per cent extra on wages, or grade rises all round.

At the end of this week, Bank Leumi had sunk into a deep leadership crisis. So far, only Yosef Pecker, a leading industrialist has resigned, while the others refuse to do so, unless the Bank of Israel forces them. It is unlikely that Pecker will remain alone for long. But whatever happens the yawning chasm between workers and management has never been greater — and this in the bank with the worst record of industrial relations of any of the major banks.

It will no longer be possible to

Inside Leumigate

This week has seen Bank Leumi sink into a deep leadership crisis. The Jerusalem Post's Pinhas Landau points out that the chasm between workers and management has never been greater. Can Leumi find someone to restore the bank's morale?

demand anything from the staff in the way of "rationalization" — meaning firings, branch closures and the rest. The feeling that the men at the top are two-faced hypocrites, preaching restraint and austerity to their subordinates while lining their own pockets, has now become deeply ingrained in the minds of the staff. The fact that even the most senior executives, including CEO Mordechai Einhorn, have recently taken substantial pay cuts, has lost its impact. The impression inside the bank, to a much greater extent than outside, is that each new round of scandal produces token sacrifices at the top which are negligible compared to the staggering salaries, perks and other forms of benefit that these people get.

THE FIGURES involved — millions of dollars in one-time payments, six and seven-figure annual salaries, and monthly pensions of tens of thousands of dollars — are mind-boggling to most Israelis, including most bank employees. The way they have been dragged out, little by little, revelation by revelation, has made it all far worse for the Leumi staff. Each time they thought they had put something behind them, another item cropped up.

The interesting features about the muckraking is how it gradually has worked its way upwards. When Prof. Globerson reported that most of the higher-level executives received bloated salaries, it turned out that only a

handful did. Then we learned that a very few got very large sums indeed. Then we got to Japhet himself.

No one has confirmed the figures, but they haven't been denied either, and that's what counts more. So we have a salary of \$1 million per annum, severance pay of \$4-5 million, and a pension of some \$30,000 per month. All for Ernest J. Japhet, of whom so much unflattering prose was written in the Bejski report not very long ago.

But the real question is: Who made the decision? Who agreed to grant Japhet these amounts, and why? To say that the contract demanded them is to put the onus on those who negotiated and signed the contract. The finger of guilt now points at those board members who had been involved in that process.

In the first on-the-record review of what happened, former Leumi director Israel Saharav revealed to *The Jerusalem Post* earlier this week that a committee comprising himself, industrialist Yosef Pecker and kibbutznik Micha Efrati — as well, incredibly, as Japhet himself — had worked out a new contract for Japhet in 1983, to go into effect when his old one expired in 1986. That put the blame on them, but Saharav stressed that the deal was formally blessed by the entire board, including the bank's governor, Jewish Agency chairman Arye Dulzin. So they all knew.

What they didn't know were the exact terms of Japhet's severance



Ernest J. Japhet



Arye Dulzin



Eli Hurvitz

and pension pay, as worked out in mid-1986 after he resigned in May. These were put together under strictest secrecy by the incoming chairman Eli Hurvitz, together with Pecker and Efrati, and lawyer Amnon Goldenberg, who assumed Saharav's role.

And now comes the most amazing bit of all. Hurvitz actually succeeded in sharply reducing Japhet's pension, by as much as half, and his severance pay by a large amount — or so he said Wednesday night. He was therefore pleased with himself, and so, presumably were the others. But he apparently didn't realize that to the public, \$30,000 a month was simply a helluva lotta money, not merely half of \$60,000 (a month). When *Ha'aretz* broke the story last week, all hell rapidly broke loose, and the sequence of events since then is well known.

But the extent of blame is not yet clear. There is Dulzin for example, who is the supreme authority in the bank. He should have known what was going on, and therefore he is trapped. If he knew, he is blameworthy for not doing so. If he didn't know, he was falling down on the job, and thus still blameworthy. In short, Dulzin is in a very hot water. But it goes beyond him and encompasses the entire role of the Jewish Agency and its relationship with Bank Leumi.

THE AGENCY founded the bank in 1902. Theodor Herzl headed both. The agency owns the controlling "founders shares" and is thus guaranteed ultimate authority. But that's all history and theory. In practice, the agency sat by and let Japhet run the bank as he pleased. Far too late, Dulzin mustered the authority

to force Japhet to resign when he seemed determined to defy the whole country in the wake of the Bejski report. Thereafter, there was no attempt to clean up the mess. In sharp contrast to the purge of Bank Hapoalim's board by a rising Yisrael Kessar at Hevrat Ha'ovdim, a declining Dulzin left in place the Japhet cronies who made up Leumi's board.

One man, Ernst Wodak of Aderet Textiles, resigned from the board in Japhet's wake. Privately he said that all the board members were responsible. In public, nobody heard and nobody noticed.

Nobody, except the few inner council members, knew what the Japhet contract involved. Even when the severance pay figure was published, the volcano didn't erupt and the board carried on with business as usual. The Globerson report shook them, but they weathered that as well. Then came Japhet's pension.

But once the volcano erupted, it became open season on Bank Leumi, especially at the Knesset. And here we come to the second important, but overshadowed feature of the scandal. There has been no rejoicing, even privately, by Leumi's rivals, at its misfortune. There has, however, been a massive outpouring of fury by the general public and its elected representatives.

The reaction of the other banks is based on a very prescient realization of where the downfall of Leumi is leading. The extent of unaccountability displayed by Dulzin, Hurvitz et al has so enraged the public that, with the \$5 billion bank share redemption now a looming reality, the issue of how the government can buy all the shares and still not gain con-

trol is going to come more and more to the forefront.

Because everyone in the country knows the government is using taxpayers' money to redeem the bank shares, the concept that "the banks belong to the nation" is gaining ground fast. For the banks, their managements and their owners — from the Recanatis to Kessar — all this is very bad news indeed. It spells out the dirtiest word in their lexicon — nationalization.

But there's no turning the clock back. With "Leumigate" coming on top of the events of last year, it may be safely said that the issue of *de jure* nationalization of the four biggest Israeli banks is firmly on the agenda. The fact that no one in the economic leadership, from the Histadrut to the employers to the Treasury to the Bank of Israel, wants that to happen is neither here nor there. Control of events has passed from the government, and especially the Bank of Israel, to the Knesset Finance Committee, where people like Haim Ramon and Dan Tichon play the Pied Piper and sweep the media and the masses along with them.

Banker-bashing is a cheap and exciting blood-sport. But it could cost us dearly in the long run, and if the banking community decides to fire back at the Knesset, things could get completely out of hand. Thus, while the Ramons and Virshupskis dig deeper and find more and more dirt — straw companies abroad, suspicious and downright smelly share dealings between interested parties, including companies owned by directors of banks, failure to act, mismanagement, and so on — the threat to the banks grows larger.

They could perhaps respond by finding activities of Knesset mem-

bers that smack of conflicts of interest or even shady dealings. They could most certainly ask a long list of past and present ministers and Finance Committee members just why they saddled the nation with the disastrous bank share "arrangement" in 1983. In a word, the number of white knights in Israeli public or business life, after all the years of inflation and funny money, is very small.

There is, therefore, a desperate need to put a lid on the stench emanating from a lot of the things that were done in the years through 1983, and perhaps thereafter as well. No one was clean, but the initial logic of the Bejski Commission, that the highest level take the responsibility and the rest sort themselves out as best they can, still remains valid.

That requires leadership, starting at the ministerial and prime ministerial level. As usual, the Shamirs, Peresses, Nissims and others have had nothing to say on the subject. The leaders and deputy leaders of both main parties, it should be recalled, voted to keep Recanati as boss of Discount, and were sorry to see Japhet leave Leumi, so there is little to hope for from that source.

As for Leumi itself, the bank needs a charismatic but tough figure to take over and restore the shattered morale of its workers and managers, and rebuild the discredited and now-depleted board. If needs, in short, an Israeli Iacocca. It had the opportunity of finding one in Eli Hurvitz, but he, his colleagues and the weight of the past combined to prevent that possibility coming to fruition. His position is no longer tenable. But where, and how, will they find another such person?

Give the working poor a leg up

Avi Temkin

SOME DAYS ago, the National Insurance Institute reported a large increase in the number of "working poor," that is people working full-time but earning a salary so low that they must apply for money from the income support programme. This item did not receive much attention from the public or the media, both of which were busy with the ongoing debate about a new package deal and Ernest Japhet's pension rights.

This lack of attention was unfortunate, especially since that report had much to do with those items

which were at the top of the public agenda. After all, if the wage freeze, advocated by Governor of the Bank of Israel Michael Bruno, is implemented, it will have a powerful impact on the "working poor."

This week, the Israel Centre for Social Policy Studies, a Jerusalem-based non-profit organization, released a report based on research carried out under its auspices by Jimmy Weinblatt and Yisrael Luski which throws new light on the wage structure in industry, and serves as a convenient basis for a discussion of

the issues raised by the ongoing debate about a wage freeze and industrial profits.

One of the report's most interesting findings is that low paid industrial workers tend to be concentrated in the "traditional" sectors of industry. According to the findings, 65 per cent of the workers in the clothing industry are low paid, i.e. are among the 30 per cent of wage earners in industry with the lowest salaries. The proportion of lowest paid workers in the leather industry reaches 45 per cent, in the textile industry 48 per cent and in the food industry 40 per cent.

The implications of this wage structure in the "traditional" indus-

try are far-reaching. The heads of those industries are well represented in the Manufacturers' Association management. It is they who set the tone of the association policies, and that of the entire industrial sector in Israel. It would be naive to expect these industrialists not to press for the inclusion of their employees in any freeze of nominal wages. Anybody pressing for an erosion of real wages should bear in mind that such a step would produce a further rise in the number of wage-earners joining the ranks of the "working poor."

INDUSTRIALISTS and government officials claim that real wages in industry have increased over and above what industry can afford. Put in these terms such argument sounds "objective."

Weinblatt and Luski's findings should also be noted in this context. They point out that while real wages rose by an average of 4 per cent per year between 1970 and 1984 for industry as a whole, they rose by only 1 to 2 per cent on the average

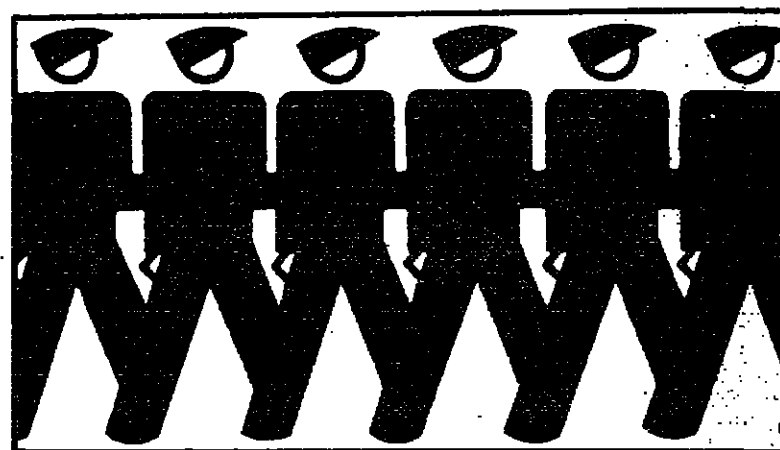
ducts which would have to compete with East Asian countries with even lower wages. Those industries would be concentrated in development towns and areas.

One response to such a frightening prospect is to have greater mobility among industries, that is to have workers move from traditional to well paid industries as well as upgrading workers' skills. This is one of the possibilities mentioned in the centre's report.

However, this is not the entire answer. Many of these workers live in development towns. Given national priorities, it is unlikely that the government would encourage "mobility," if this entails an exodus of young workers from these towns to Tel Aviv, Haifa or Ashdod.

Therefore, the economy would profit from a programme of industrial development that would encourage vocational training, as well as the establishment of non-traditional production lines in development towns.

Usually, the government is full of



of the average wage, and would make it legally binding. Such proposals have met stiff opposition from the Manufacturers' Association, government officials and Knesset members. They argue that a minimum wage should be left to what they call "free negotiations" between the Histadrut and the employers, and that any legislative intervention would result in grave distortions. Opponents also claim that an enforced minimum wage, would jeopardize economic stability and industry's competitive position, since it would result in a significant rise in costs. They add that if it is set at a higher level it would produce an immediate increase in wages just above it, for workers would fight to preserve the gap between their salary and the minimum wage.

The argument about the need for "non-intervention" in free negotiations between employers and employees can be rejected out of hand. The government and the Knesset have found it necessary to intervene in other areas of industrial relations, and nobody, except for a few dogmatists, would argue that this is wrong. Thus, there is legislation concerning the length of the labour day, work conditions, protection of working mothers, non-discrimination against women, etc.

Particularly, in the "traditional sector," there are workers being paid less than the minimum wage set in the collective wage agreements. Thus, the introduction of a legally binding minimum wage would not only raise the level of the lowest salary but also bring up the wages of those workers currently paid less than the minimum.

The centre's study discusses the effects of such a move assuming three different levels of alternative minimum wages: 35, 40 and 50 per cent of the average wage in the economy. Weinblatt and Luski also assume that there will be an increase in those wages immediately above the minimum, bringing about an upward crawl in the lower part of the wage scale.

According to the study, some 19,000 workers earned less than the agreed minimum — some 35 per cent of the average wage — in Israel industry in 1983. This means that currently they are earning less than NIS 380 a month. If the minimum wage were set by law at that level, those workers would automatically get a raise. In traditional industries, they number between 10 and 15 per cent of the work force.

The study also found that some 11 per cent of the industrial work force, over 25,000 workers, in 1983 earned less than 40 per cent of the average

wage in the economy and 40,000, almost 20 per cent of the work force, earned less than 50 per cent of the average wage. This means that a fifth of the industrial workers are currently earning a monthly wage of some NIS 550 or less. In the traditional industries this proportion rises to 30 to 40 per cent of the work force.

On the basis of such figures, it is possible to calculate that a legal minimum wage set at 35 per cent of the average wage in the economy would boost industrial costs by less than 1 per cent. The increase in costs rises to 1.3 per cent when the minimum wage is set at 40 per cent and to 2.5 per cent for a 50 per cent minimum wage.

Thus, the increase in costs for industry due to the establishment of a legally binding minimum wage would be relatively low, and would help ease the problem of the working poor. The problem is that for traditional industries, the rise in costs would be much more pronounced, since in these industries the rate of low paid workers is much higher. Costs in these sectors, clothing, textiles, leather and print, would go up by 5 to 7 per cent.

Again, one must take into account the influence of the owners of such industries within the Manufacturers' Association when explaining its stiff opposition to a minimum wage bill. Based on the figures it can be argued that industry in general would have little trouble paying a minimum wage.

The problem is in the traditional sectors. But the question is whether there is justification for maintaining industry based on a low paid-work force in Israel. A minimum wage bill would encourage such industries either to diversify into lines of production in which they will be able to compete without paying their workers NIS 350 a month, or to introduce new machinery and methods.

In the short term, the minimum wage law could be applied to such industries gradually. For instance, the level could be set at 40 per cent in industry, leaving a grace period of some years for traditional industries during which their minimum wage level would remain at 35 per cent. This would prevent the problem of dismissals, leaving the government with enough time to train the work force and to encourage the introduction of new production lines and methods.

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מכירה מיוחדת

MARKET PLACE

PINHAS LANDAU

Pawn sacrifice

A tense and delicate chess game is being played out. On the one side is the hard-headed Bank Leumi board, playing the black pieces. On the other the combined forces of the staff, headed by the works committee, and the Knesset, which always likes to pretend it is on the white, and right side.

The exposure of the Japhet pension, the latest and perhaps greatest of the pay and perks scandals to rock the bank, ripped a great hole in the Leumi defense, still recovering from the original invention of the Globerson gambit.

Black made three moves this week. The first was the self-destruction of one of the black knights, Yosef Pecker, was the chairman of the 1983 committee that designed a new contract for Japhet, to run from his 65th to 70th birthdays, beginning in 1986 (all this was before the bank share collapse and subsequent events). Whether Pecker was moved by others or moved himself is not yet clear, but his removal opened up one of black's flanks.

The next move was to throw Japhet, the king-turned-pawn, to the dogs. This unusual initiative was designed to deflect attention from the new black king, Eli Hurvitz, and give time to shore up the defense before white could exploit the confusion. But white's rooks and knights, namely the Knesset Finance Committee, the staff and management works committees and the media, moved more aggressively than black anticipated and launched an all-out attack putting black into check.

This made inevitable black's next response, which came yesterday. A pawn on the board, Micha Efrati of Kibbutz Geva, was thrust in the way of the white onslaught, thereby blocking the check and giving temporary respite to the black king, who moved temporarily out of harm's way (back to Austria, to "collect his family," who had been left behind. Can Mrs. Hurvitz not make the plane without assistance?).

Meanwhile the white king and queen, in the guise of Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno and Chairman of Banks Galla Maor, have called a halt to the attack, offering black a draw if it can think of a reasonable excuse for its appalling blunders on the board until now, before requesting it to resign if it cannot.

Each side, however, has its own game. The white rooks of the Knesset Finance Committee and the bank works committees have continued with their own attacks. The former, however, is engaged in the sidelong of eating up the black pieces already taken earlier in the game—Saharov, Pecker and Efrati. It believes it will get to the king and queen that way. The latter wants to take all black's remaining pieces in one go, as ambitions but not impossible task under the circumstances.

Another interesting development is black pawns changing sides and turning into white pieces. One such move occurred yesterday, when a large industrial customer of Leumi's, Octagon Industries, said that after playing on black's side for 30 years it couldn't take it anymore and was defecting.

The black queen, Arye Dulzin, will once again take up on Sunday its aimless wandering around, flitting in and out of the playing area without affecting anything. The sole contribution of the black queen to the game so far was its unprecedented checkmating of its own king, Japhet, who was only allowed to stay in play on condition he became a pawn.

Black, however, is seeking to introduce a new piece, in fact a kind of joker, to serve as a fig-leaf to cover the nakedness of its defense. Whether such a piece exists, and if so whether it achieves black's purpose, or whether the white king and queen will remove it or ignore it, remains to be seen.

For the moment, the black piece most exposed is its bishop, Amnon Goldenberg. Any concerted white attack, especially from the media knights, could quickly lead to his removal, and create a new check position on the black king.

Chess experts watching this enthralling game believe that the key to white's next moves lies with the queen.

Diamond industry sees downturn ahead

By SIMON LOUISON.
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. — A sharp downturn in diamond exports in December and a slowdown in sales in January has the diamond industry worried about the prospects for the industry this year.

Polished diamond exports fell 38 per cent from \$170 million in November to \$104m. last month. However, a comparison with other years shows that diamond exports traditionally slow down in December. In 1985, for example, they slipped from \$130m. in November to \$98m. in December, representing a 24 per cent decline.

But industry executives point to the sharpness of the falloff in 1986 and the absence of buyers returning to the market this month in what is traditionally a time to replenish stocks.

Merchants in the U.S. have been reporting especially slow sales, particularly in two buying sectors which have been hit hard economically in the last year: the oil industry and the Midwest farming area. The U.S. market accounts for around 50 per cent of Israel's exports.

Japan, another key market that accounts for 20 per cent of Israel's exports, has also experienced slow sales. The slowdown in the Far East is attributed to fierce competition from low-labour-cost Asian nations such as Sri Lanka, Malaysia and India.

Local industry people accuse the Asian competitors of dumping on the Japanese markets. However, they have little evidence to back their claims, other than to say that local manufacturers could not match the prices Asian producers are asking.

The Japanese market is also soft at the moment because a number of Japanese traders have been burned by the fall of the dollar against the yen. Those holding large stocks of diamonds, which are valued in U.S. dollars, have seen their holdings de-

preciate by 40 per cent over the last year because of the dollar's fall.

Meanwhile Israeli manufacturers say they are caught in a three-way squeeze. Last year the average cost of rough diamonds sold by the Central Selling Organization (CSO) rose by an average of 16 per cent. On the other hand the rise in the price of polished diamonds only lifted by an average of 5-6 per cent. Coupled with this, while the shekel has been effectively tied to the dollar since July 1985, Israeli manufacturers claim local costs have risen by 40 per cent.

As a result, industry sources expect direct employment in the diamond manufacturing industry to diminish by 10 per cent to about 9,000 workers this year. Also, the industry will be intensifying pressure on the government to provide it with the same support it gives other export industries.

In particular the diamond industry is looking to the government to give it greater foreign exchange compensation cover and the same kind of tax advantages enjoyed by their Asian competitors.

Despite this slightly gloomy prognosis, figures show that the slowdown is on top of a buoyant year. CSO world sales for 1986 were \$2.76 billion, up 40 per cent on the \$1.82b. in 1985. Sales in the second half of 1986 were \$1.34b., up 11 per cent from the first half.

The figures for Israel show a similarly encouraging trend. In the 11 months to November polished exports netted \$1.56b., compared with \$1.16b. in 1985. Imports were \$1.25b. in 1986 and \$882m. in 1985.

UK shares at record; BA sale set

LONDON (Reuters). — Share prices on the London Stock Exchange scaled new highs yesterday as investors, encouraged by Wall Street's record climb, added more than \$5.3 billion to the value of company stocks.

Strong buying interest and a shortage of stock combined to push the broadly based Financial Times 100 index to a new record for the second day running. It gained 23.1 points yesterday to 1745.3, before edging back to 1742.8.

The rise followed this week's general boom in world stock markets, particularly on Wall Street.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average topped 2000 yesterday for the first time in the history of the New York Stock Exchange, capping a 100-point new year rally.

In a related development, the British government said that British Airways, the state-run national carrier whose path to private-sector ownership has been littered with obstacles, will be sold off to the public next month.

More than 720 million ordinary shares will go on sale early in February, with a minimum investment of 400 shares. Trading in the new shares will begin on February 11, Transport Minister John Moore said.

The price, to be announced on January 27, is expected to be in the region of the equivalent of \$1.75 to \$2.05.

Currency crisis spreads

PARIS (Reuters). — Europe's currency crisis widened yesterday as the French franc stayed pinned to its floor against the Deutschmark in the European Monetary System (EMS) and Bonn continued to resist French pressure to revalue the mark upwards.

Finance Minister Edouard Balladur described the franc as "comfortable" at its 333.03 floor against the mark, but foreign exchange dealers said keeping it there was costing France reserves equivalent to several hundred million dollars a day.

Despite speculative pressures against the franc slackening, the Irish pound joined the French currency at the floor of the EMS, which links the currencies of eight European Community nations in a flexible joint float.

In Frankfurt, foreign exchange dealers said heavy selling pressure was also building up against the Italian lira, seen as another candidate for devaluation in any EMS realignment. The Danish krone was also at its floor, and the Belgian central bank was forced to raise its discount rate by a half percentage point Wednesday to ease pressure on the Belgian franc.

Fluctuations in the value of the dollar, helped briefly by overnight support in Japan, added to the confusion. It was finished at around 1.9146 marks, just off the day's lows.

Dealers reported growing expectations of an EMS realignment as early as this weekend.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Scitex to cut payroll a further 10 per cent

Scitex Corp., the Herzliya-based maker of computerized imaging systems for the printing industry, said it planned to cut its 1,400-strong workforce by another 10 per cent as part of a larger drive to slash expenditures.

The company, which has posted cumulative losses amounting to \$28 million through the third quarter of 1986, has already reduced its staff by 400 and cut management salaries.

Scitex said yesterday that based on sales reports from representatives abroad, it expected fourth-quarter 1986 sales to exceed the previous quarter's \$33m.

As part of its cost-cutting moves, Scitex said it would return to its

original market focus, printing and publishing. Research and development in other areas, such as seismic exploration, is being reduced, the company said.

COMVERSE TECHNOLOGY INC. shares began trading on New York's over-the-counter market December 15, following the completions of a \$7 million share issue underwritten by Stuart James Co. Converse is the parent of Efrat Future Technology Ltd., a maker of computer gear.

A Converse spokesman said the shares had risen 25 per cent since their first day of trading, but he would not say what the current price is.

Efrat makes the Trologue computer, used in military intelligence and communications.

HOMEOWNERS WITHOUT TABU will get help if a private member's bill introduced by Likud

MK Meir Cohen-Avidov on Wednesday wins Knesset approval.

Homes that were built on land before it was officially parcelled out cannot be registered in the Tabu, which makes them difficult to sell.

Mortgages can only be granted to home buyers to purchase residences listed in Tabu.

Under Cohen-Avidov's bill, land would be parcelled out on a temporary basis for the purpose of registering it in Tabu. The Justice Ministry is known to favour the bill, which should speed its passage.

EL YAM SHIPPING CO.'S latest addition to its grain-carrying fleet, the 65,000 ton M.S. Samsun, arrived in Haifa yesterday.

The six-year-old ship acquired from a foreign owner, is to replace the company's 50,000 ton M.S. Nevo, which is 20 years old and is to be sold for scrap.

The Samsun will sail under a foreign flag, but will be manned by an Israeli crew of 24-officers and men.

LEUMI

(Continued from Page One)

port," the source said.

He added, however, that the Bank of Israel would decide its approach without being influenced by pressure from the Knesset or other sources, and in line with its charter which requires it to intervene in a bank's affairs when that bank's stability or wellbeing are threatened.

Meanwhile, a series of events yesterday demonstrated that the decisions taken by the board on Wednesday night had boosted, rather than stemmed, the public outcry over the Japhet payments scandal.

Micha Efrati, the "kibbutznik director," resigned from the bank's board only 12 hours after telling reporters that his role as a member of the committee that framed Japhet's contract and terms of departure were not a reason for him to resign, although he regretted them now. In his letter of resignation, Efrati said that, throughout his directorship, he had done his best to further the bank's interests, in accordance with the information available to him, and that his resignation was being tendered solely in the best interests of the bank.

Senior middle managers held a stormy meeting with the bank's executive management, in the course of which they expressed the feelings of anger and shame, and the sense of having been duped, which they, like the lower-level staffers, had on learning of the size of the salary that Japhet received.

In the first public move of its kind, a large industrial firm announced it was cutting its business ties with Bank Leumi after a 30-year relationship. Octagon Industries 1974, a metals company quoted on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, had grown over the decades from a small outfit to a recipient of the "outstanding exporter" award. Company chairman Avraham Oved, in a letter to Leumi's board expressed amazement at Japhet's recent behaviour, concluding that "in view of recent events at the top of the bank, and as a protest, we have decided to close our accounts with Bank Leumi by March 31, 1987."

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal told reporters in Upper Nazareth that he and other ministers intended to bring the Japhet issue to the economic cabinet shortly. Shahal noted that the Leumi board's decision to suspend Japhet's pension payments was "the least they could do at this time."

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:

General Share Index	101.82+1.56%
Non-Bank Index	101.13+1.17%
Insurance	98.89+0.43%
Commerce, Services	101.01+0.08%
Real Estate	102.80+1.99%
Industrial	103.48+2.50%
Metals	102.80+1.78%
Electronics	105.80+2.94%
Chemicals	102.53+3.10%
Industrial Invest.	103.85+2.40%
Investment Cos.	105.13+3.54%
General Bond Index	100.77+0.52%
Index-linked Bonds	100.77+0.40%
Fully-linked	100.78+0.93%
Partially-linked	100.78+0.03%
Dollar-linked Bonds	100.78+1.23%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	100.71+0.12%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	100.91+0.03%
Long-term 5+ yrs	100.74+0.67%

Turnovers:

Shares - total	NIS 15,636,500
Arrangement	NIS 4,881,300
Non-Bank	NIS 10,775,200
Bonds - total	NIS 21,855,800
Index-linked	NIS 2,890,500
Dollar-linked	NIS 3,138,900
Treasury Bills	NIS 4,920,200

Share Movements:

Advances	200 (128)
of which 5%+	37 (8)
"buyers only"	38 (11)
Declines	38 (122)
of which 5%+	5 (20)
"sellers only"	0 (0)
Unchanged	139 (136)
Trading Halt	40 (30)

Bond Market Trends:

Index-linked:	
3% fully-linked	Mixed to 1%

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%
General Share Index	101.82	101.82	+1.56%
Non-Bank Index	101.13	101.13	+1.17%
Insurance	98.89	98.89	+0.43%
Commerce, Services	101.01	101.01	+0.08%
Real Estate	102.80	102.80	+1.99%
Industrial	103.48	103.48	+2.50%
Metals	102.80	102.80	+1.78%
Electronics	105.80	105.80	+2.94%
Chemicals	102.53	102.53	+3.10%
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Long-term 5+ yrs	100.74	100.74	+0.67%

Name	Price	Volume	%
Meir Ezra	1455	3629	-0.7
Supersol 2	7880	1195	-
Delek	3650	5115	-
Lightstorage	14200	115	-
Cold Storage	1489	2737	-
Dan Hotels	1581	506	+0.7
Yarden Hotel	2650	217	-
Hilton-1	21500	12	-
Team 1	1000	2877	-

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General Share Index	101.82	101.82	+1.56%
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Commerce, Services	101.01	101.01	+0.08%
Real Estate	102.80	102.80	+1.99%
Industrial	103.48	103.48	+2.50%
Metals	102.80	102.80	+1.78%
Electronics	105.80	105.80	+2.94%
Chemicals	102.53	102.53	+3.10%
Industrial Invest.	103.85	103.85	+2.40%
Investment Cos.	105.13	105.13	+3.54%
General Bond Index	100.77	100.77	+0.52%
Index-linked Bonds	100.77	100.77	+0.40%
Fully-linked	100.78	100.78	+0.93%
Partially-linked	100.78	100.78	+0.03%
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Hilton-1	21500	12	-
Team 1	1000	2877	-

Name	Price	Volume	%
General Share Index	101.82	101.82	+1.56%
Non-Bank Index	101.13	101.13	+1.17%
Insurance	98.89	98.89	+0.43%
Commerce, Services	101.01	101.01	+0.08%
Real Estate	102.80	102.80	+1.99%
Industrial	103.48	103.48	+2.50%
Metals	102.80	102.80	+1.78%
Electronics	105.80	105.80	+2.94%
Chemicals	102.53	102.53	+3.10%
Industrial Invest.	103.85	103.85	+2.40%
Investment Cos.	105.13	105.13	+3.54%
General Bond Index	100.77	100.77	+0.52%
Index-linked Bonds	100.77	100.77	+0.40%
Fully-linked	100.78	100.78	+0.93%
Partially-linked	100.78	100.78	+0.03%
Dollar-linked Bonds	100.78	100.78	+1.23%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	100.71	100.71	+0.12%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	100.91	100.91	+0.03%
Long-term 5+ yrs	100.74	100.74	+0.67%

Name	Price	Volume	%
Meir Ezra	1455	3629	-0.7
Supersol 2	7880	1195	-
Delek	3650	5115	-
Lightstorage	14200	115	-
Cold Storage	1489	2737	-
Dan Hotels	1581	506	+0.7
Yarden Hotel	2650	217	-
Hilton-1	21500	12	-
Team 1	1000	2877	-

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The wheeler-dealers

THE RESIGNATION of Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz as interior minister had no sooner become final this week than efforts started going into high gear to get around the "difficulty" which forced him out: the High Court ruling that Shoshana Miller, a Reform convert, must be registered by the interior minister as a Jew in her ID card. Rabbi Peretz would rather not be a cabinet minister, materially valuable as that is for his ultra-Orthodox constituency, than, as he put it, certify to the Jewishness—in terms of belonging to a "national group"—of a non-Jew.

The Shas leader's ostentatious retirement to a back bench has in fact made him a hero in some sectors of the Orthodox community. Shas's rival religious parties—Agudat Yisrael, the NRP, Morasha—are now resolved to deprive Rabbi Peretz of his halo by making it possible for him to retake his cabinet seat. There is at the moment less than unanimity within the Knesset's "religious lobby" as to which remedy would best prevent the onset of the fatal disease which is supposed to be the spread of Reform into Israel. The controversy within the lobby seems almost as fierce, if not fiercer sometimes, than the debate with the secular parties outside. But all tend to agree that no trick in the book should be left untried to render the High Court's ruling null and void.

The NRP is openly disdainful of Rabbi Peretz's devious but inept politicking, which resulted in the ruling. The party's assumption is that, if the former interior minister had not consented to Ms. Miller's registration as a "Jew (convert)," the High Court would have itself seen the illogic of treating a Reform convert as a Jew. But now that the deed is done, contends the NRP's Avner Shaki, a law professor, it would be perfectly in order to simply ignore the obnoxious ruling.

Political parties, even religious ones, cannot, however, rely on the counsel of scholasticism alone. Their favoured choice is, therefore, the passage, at long last, of the "Who's a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return. That would remove any doubt about the eligibility of persons converted by non-Orthodox rabbis to claim citizenship under the Law of Return.

The latest bid to gain parliament's approval for the amendment was withdrawn at the last moment on Wednesday, when the sponsors realized they still lacked a majority. Another attempt is likely to be made within a month, and it will certainly be made if the lobby succeeds in watering down the Alignment's undertaking to the Reform Movement to block any change in the Law of Return.

But there are more arrows in Orthodoxy's anti-Reform quiver than changing the Law of Return. For practical reasons, Rabbi Peretz himself favours an amendment to the Rabbinical Courts Law, requiring the approval of such a tribunal for the inclusion of a convert as a Jew in the Population Register, which is a far more binding document than the ID card.

The proposed amendment would be the perfect remedy to the Miller dilemma: it would allow Orthodoxy to cock a snook at the High Court, while increasing its independent legal power.

But how to get the amendment—or some "moderate" version of it—through the Knesset? According to some reports that is not a real problem for the politicians.

The Likud, anxious for religious party support in a future coalition, is already sold on the idea. And the Alignment, the reports claim, is ready to make back-room deals. For example, changing the law in return for Shas endorsement of the Labour candidate for State Comptroller to replace Yitzhak Tunik who retired this week.

In a country where the people who populate back rooms, or board rooms as in the case of Bank Leumi, believe they can foist anything on a complacent or unknowing public, such wheeler-dealing between the religious and secular parties can't be ruled out.

But any such tampering with the Zionist and civil nature of the state would set off tremors in Israel and the Jewish People at large that would eclipse anything this generation has known. For then the splitting of the nation, which the religious parties piously vow they wish to prevent, would indeed become a reality.

UNIFIL

(Continued from Page One)
interest in staying in Southern Lebanon or in Lebanese territory. But Israel would only change the present arrangement if a workable alternative was available—and Unifil, together with tacit Amal assurances of non-aggression—cannot be considered such an alternative. Israel's leaders, according to Goulding, feel that an arrangement of that kind would not prevent attacks on Israel. But Goulding believes that the SLA's presence and actions serve a continuous "provocation" to the Shi'ites: "The SLA indiscriminately and heavily shells the Shi'ite villages," he charged. He also spoke of the Khiam detention centre, in which the SLA holds Shi'ite suspects.

Goulding emerged from his talks with Daoud Daoud with the conviction that Amal "would not allow a return to the pre-1982 situation," when the PLO rode roughshod over the Shi'ites and used Southern Lebanon as a base from which to attack Israel. But Amal would not enter into "formal" agreements to this effect with Israel, Goulding felt.

The Shi'ites told Goulding that so long as the Israeli "occupation" of Southern Lebanon continued, the Shi'ites would resist. Goulding believes that the recent attacks on SLA

positions were not mounted solely by the extremist Hizbullah and Palestinians.

"Amal too is resisting and joining in the fight against the SLA. And my impression, from talking to them, was that they are confident, that they feel they are doing rather well."

And if the Shi'ite onslaught were to lead to a collapse of the SLA and the IDF were to return in force to Southern Lebanon?

"We got the IDF out of Tyre, didn't we?" was the Amal response, says Goulding. Amal "cannot tolerate" the occupation of part of Lebanon (the security zone) by a "foreign country."

As to the Palestinians, Goulding's impression is that they "have returned in force to Beirut and Sidon but they are not at the moment operating in Southern Lebanon, south of the Litani. Amal has fought them hard in Rashidiye (the refugee camp outside Tyre)."

Goulding, who also met Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, said that Gemayel believes that the "conjunction is right" for national reconciliation in Lebanon and has been "encouraged (to believe this)" by the reports of his emissaries who have recently returned from Damascus.

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Shas finds a cause but loses a power base

Asher Wallfish

WHEN THE ultra-Orthodox Sephardi Shas party entered national politics before the 1984 Knesset elections, it was like a rebel without a cause.

Shas rebelled against the tutelage of the older, ultra-Orthodox, Ashkenazi party, Agudat Yisrael, which denied the Sephardi rabbis and their educational institutions both representation and financial support.

The Sephardi rebellion was inspired, even master-minded, by an Ashkenazi. He was a senior Aguda sage who objected to the dominant role of the Rabbi of Gur and his hasidic adherents and who wanted to break their stranglehold on the party. That sage was Rabbi Eliezer Schach of Bnei Brak, who teamed up with a former Sephardi chief rabbi, Ovadia Yosef.

Rabbi Yosef resented the way that Ashkenazi rabbis often tended to hold Sephardi rabbis in contempt, as second-class scholars. The senior Aguda spiritual body, Moetzet Gedolei Hatorah, never co-opted a Sephardi scholar, on the grounds that none was learned enough. The story goes that certain Ashkenazi elders, when queried, replied: None of them can speak Yiddish!

The Shas rebels were an "anti-party," dedicated to demolishing a rabbinical establishment. They started off with no message, no spiritual identity, and no ideological cause. All they wanted was their fair share.

For the last two-and-a-quarter years, in the present government, the Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz has used the budgets and influence at his disposal in the powerful Interior Ministry to consolidate Shas's position around the country.

Shas has spread beyond the narrow, cramped base from which it set out in 1984, becoming a national party. No longer an under-privileged

rebel, Shas has developed into an establishment party.

This week it also acquired a cause, perhaps even an ideology. Where formerly Shas acted as though whatever was good for the Sephardim was sufficient in itself as ideology, it has now been forced into a stand on principle by the affair of Shoshana Miller and her Reform conversion, which Peretz refused to recognize.

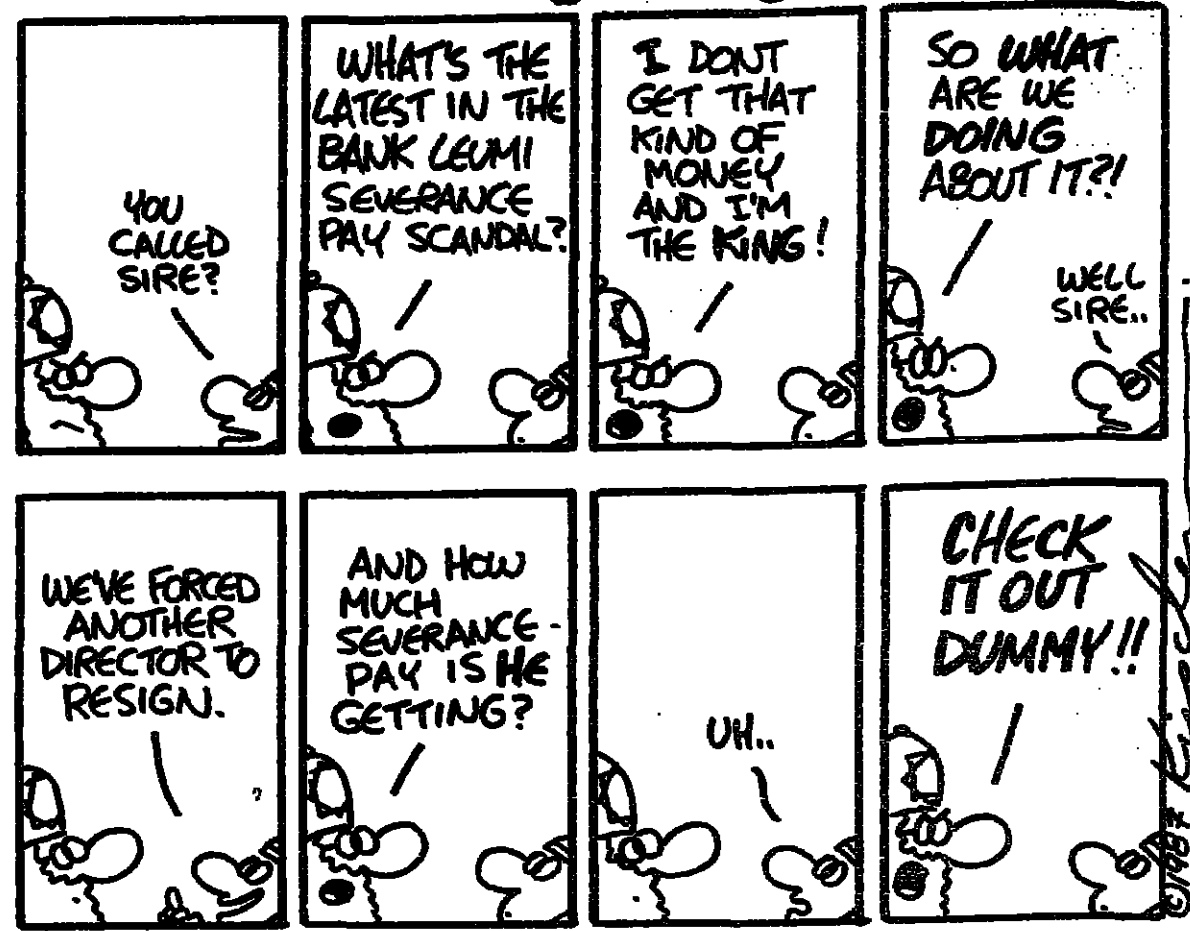
In refusing to sanction this Reform conversion, and in seeking a way to prevent other Reform converts following in Miller's footsteps as a consequence of primary or secondary legislation (gazetting regulations), Shas has created a spiritual image for the first time. By so doing, it has also lost an influential cabinet seat.

A very senior Shas official, who shall remain nameless, elatedly told *The Jerusalem Post* last year that the party has exploited its patronage and budgets to the full, concentrating on education of voters—as distinct from education of the children as voters-to-be—which was its initial objective. It has done this through an assortment of centres, study circle projects and adult education schemes in parts of Israel where it did not attempt to win a single vote in 1984.

IN THE ULTRA-Orthodox world, Peretz is the hero of the hour. As far as his own personal image is concerned, he is Israel's most principled ultra-Orthodox politician. He is still comparatively young, and a long career in politics is assured him. Should he ever seek the post of Sephardi chief rabbi, it would be his for the asking, regardless of whether he won Rabbi Schach's endorsement.

Principles are well and good, but Peretz could endanger the interests of his party in the long run, unless Shas remains in the coalition. Shas must keep the director-generalship of the Interior Ministry and the deputy minister of Housing, if it is not to shrivel and its political clout diminish. The fact that Peretz him-

The Friday Dry Bones



self is out of the Interior Ministry is not crucial, as long as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir does not give the portfolio to another party, and keeps it close to himself.

No wonder the energetic Young Guard of Shas tried to influence Rabbi Ovadia Yosef to put pressure on Peretz to accept a minister-without-portfolio appointment at the very least. The Young Guard, who would lose their own jobs if Shas left the coalition, argued eloquently that the Shas voters depend on Peretz staying in the Cabinet in one form or another.

Shas sees the problem of non-Orthodox conversions to Judaism differently from Agudat Yisrael, Morasha, and part of the National Religious Party, because it is not locked in a struggle against the Reform and Conservative streams in Diaspora Judaism.

Shas does not need to exploit Israeli law as an extra weapon in disqualifying its rivals, as does Agudat Yisrael and the Lubavitcher reb-

be in Brooklyn. It prefers to settle the problem in the rabbinical courts in Israel.

Only after it failed last year to muster a majority to amend the Rabbinical Courts Adjudication Law, and give rabbinical courts exclusive authority to authenticate conversions, did it propose a string of curious and clumsy solutions to the problem of Shoshana Miller's registration, which caused more trouble than they were worth.

It is too early to predict whether or not Shas will quit the coalition altogether if Shoshana Miller is registered as Jewish by the Interior Ministry.

It is, however, much safer to predict that Agudat Yisrael and the National Religious Party will stay where they are whatever happens. Like hounds in full chase, Aguda and the NRP tried to bark louder than Shas during the Miller crisis. But they have no bite. Their threats of leaving the coalition are meaningless.

They cannot possibly win the sort

of public credit which Shas gained by relinquishing power for the sake of principle. And, perhaps more importantly, both Aguda and the NRP are in such a rickety state that they cannot afford to lose the tiniest shred of influence which coalition goodies mean for them.

As Shas did not plan the Miller crisis, neither did the Aguda and the NRP. None of these three parties see any prospect in the foreseeable future of amending the Law of Return, to prescribe that conversions must conform with Halacha.

Aguda and the NRP are intimidated by three MKs, two in the coalition, Avner Shaki and Haim Druckman (NRP), and one outside, Avraham Verdiger (Morasha). And the Lubavitcher rebbe in Brooklyn and his Habad legions have so maligned Aguda and the NRP over the years, that they flinch at the possibility of another tongue-lashing from him.

The writer is Knesset Correspondent of The Jerusalem Post.

READERS' LETTERS

GOOD OLD NEW ZEALAND

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — As New Zealanders who came on aliyah in 1962, my husband and I wish to take exception to Stephen Levine's criticism of New Zealand as it appeared in *The Post* on December 23.

My family came to New Zealand from Germany in 1939. Immediately, the headmistress of my school had me exempted from enemy alien status, thus showing her understanding of the situation. My parents lived their lives out in New Zealand and I know that they had a good life there. My husband is a born New Zealander and did not feel any discrimination there as a Jew. Two of our sons spent some time studying in New Zealand recently, and we never heard any complaints from them about having suffered from anti-Semitism. When we visited New Zealand two years ago, none of our

relatives or friends mentioned dissatisfaction with the way New Zealand treated Jews.

I cannot deny the existence of anti-Semitism in New Zealand, nor can I deny that there is truth in Stephen Levine's statements. In order to hear or read political anti-Israel sentiments, or to find incidents of anti-Semitism, we do not have to go as far as New Zealand, but can find them much closer to home, among other nations that we also count as our friends.

As to abuse of kippot-wearers in New Zealand, I have been told by Christian clerics that they have been openly insulted more than once in our own city of Jerusalem by Jews. Alas! Such is human nature.

Good old New Zealand! We still love it.

SUSI R. LEVENE

Jerusalem.

HOUSING MORTGAGES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — I would like to protest a new regulation of the Ministry of Absorption. Olim married to Israelis who did not serve in the army are restricted to housing mortgages of only NIS 12,000 under unfavourable repayment conditions. This is less than the sum given to a young Israeli couple under favourable conditions.

However, it is also less than the NIS 17,500 given to a single oleh, or the \$40,000 given to a family of olim. In both these cases, the recipients are not required to serve in the army before getting their respective loans.

In other words, if I were single without a child, I would be in a better position to finance housing in Israel than if I were married to an Israeli.

JASON ALSTER

Nesher.

EMBASSIES IN TEL AVIV AREA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Your front-page blurb "Rents force diplomats out of Herzliya and vicinity" (December 9) is most misleading.

Robert Rosenberg, in his *Skyline* report, informs us that Herzliya Pituah "has begun losing foreign currency-paying residents" as

"several embassies" have suggested to their diplomats that they seek housing in Ramat Gan, etc.

As a real estate agent specializing in rental housing for diplomats in Herzliya Pituah and Kfar Shmaryahu, I can assure your readers that the facts are the very opposite. Embassies in the Tel Aviv area con-

tinue to seek rental housing for their diplomats in the Herzliya Pituah area but, regrettably, there are not enough houses available for rent in this area to meet the demand.

PHILIP G. LEVINE

Herzliya Pituah.

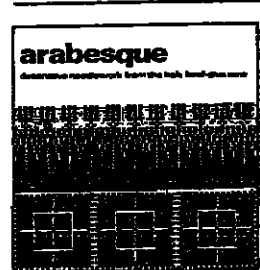
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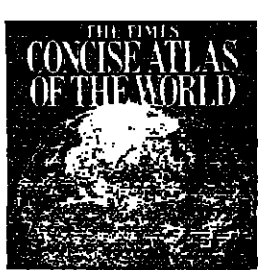
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NEW YEAR'S EVE AND HANUKKA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Your article of December 25 on New Year's Eve parties quotes the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem as saying that Hanukka coincides with New Year's Eve every 19 years.

While Gregorian/Hebrew dates generally coincide every 19 years, the same is not true about Hanukka and New Year's Eve, since Hanukka is celebrated for eight days. In fact, since the establishment of the State of Israel, Hanukka has coincided with New Year's Eve in 1949, 1960, 1968, 1979 and 1987.

JOSEPH NELSON

Jerusalem.

MATRICULATION RESULTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Your issue of December 19 shows a photograph of the front page of *The Citizen* of Johannesburg. More interesting than the main headline are the words in the bottom right-hand corner of the photograph "Matric results tomorrow." This means that some two weeks after the end of the school year, school leavers will obtain their final matriculation results.

Our Ministry of Education could investigate, why it takes us two to three years to do what others manage to achieve in two to three weeks.

M. LURIE

Ra'anana.

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